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92 drown off Yemeni coast

SANAA (AFP) — Ninety-two people have died and six others are missing after an Eritrean ship sank off the coast of Yemen more than a week ago, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday, giving the first official death toll. "Yemeni coast guards have saved 52 bodies," a ministry spokesman told the official news agency SABA, adding that six others were missing. The ship — carrying 150 passengers, all Eritreans, according to the ministry — sank on Aug. 18. Earlier on Tuesday, an Eritrean diplomat, Salah Nawad, said Yemeni authorities were alerted late to the shipwreck and rescue operations did not begin until a week after the tragedy. Mr. Nawad, who said there were 175 people on the ship, added that the boat was a "small craft" smuggling immigrants, mostly Eritreans but also some Sudanese and Ethiopians, to Yemen and Saudi Arabia to work illegally.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily
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Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Egypt deescalates war of words with Jordan over Iraq

Source says relations normal and Cairo and Amman share objectives and responsibility

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

EGYPT on Tuesday appeared to be trying to deescalate a war of words its state-controlled print media had launched against Jordan, averting that the Cairo government had not investigated the campaign and that it wanted to maintain good relations with the Kingdom.

The attacks, some of them against His Majesty King Hussein in person, and others against Jordanian policies in general, appeared to have been triggered when Cairo felt that its self-assumed role as the leader of the Arab World was diminished when the King did not consult the Cairo leadership over granting asylum to two high-ranking Iraqi officials in the Kingdom (see analysis below).

The attacks were met by equally strong words from the Jordanian press, raising the spectre of a serious strain in relations reminiscent of the days of the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

However, signs emerged on Tuesday that the Egyptians could be backtracking. Observers believed that the U.S., alarmed by what it saw as a possible feud between two of its friendly countries in the Middle East, could have intervened with the Cairo government to "cool the situation," as one seasoned analyst put it.

An editorial that appeared in Tuesday's Al-Ahram daily of Cairo said Egypt was keen on preserving its ties with Jordan and should not allow any event to hamper the relations.

The correspondent of Jordan's Al-Rai newspaper in Cairo, Fathi Khatib, wrote in a dispatch on Tuesday that "an official

Egyptian political source" — obviously meaning a senior government official in view of the seriousness of the issues that was discussed — had told him that "Jordanian-Egyptian relations were normal" and there were no "negative developments."

The points highlighted by the source indicated that the Cairo government had no intention to press the campaign against Jordan since they focused on the common approaches that Cairo and Amman have adopted towards achieving peace in the Middle East, towards regional economic cooperation and towards Iraq in terms of the suffering of the Iraqi people under international sanctions and the need for Baghdad to abide by the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

Jordanian officials and politicians also indicated

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. is obliged to lift sanctions despite U.S. protests, Ekeus says

PARIS (Agencies) — Iraq's revelations about its secret weapons programmes are a clear step forward to the lifting of international sanctions despite U.S. opposition, U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said Tuesday.

Mr. Ekeus told the French daily Liberation that "we are clearly getting nearer to a lifting of the embargo" imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"I have been severely criticised for saying this but I am used to it. Before it was France who criticised me, now it's Washington."

Iraq gave Mr. Ekeus new information on its biological, nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes when he visited Baghdad almost two weeks ago.

Checking the mass of new information would take time, Mr. Ekeus said. "But that largely depends on Iraq," he added. "If they give us all the documents and information we need, it will be quick."

The U.N. Security Council is to hold its next review of sanctions on Sept. 9 but no decision to lift them is expected.

Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament, said that under 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolutions there were two conditions for an end to the oil embargo.

"We must establish that Iraq no longer has banned weapons and set up a monitoring system to make certain that it can't obtain new ones."

He recalled Washington's stance that Iraq must comply with all U.N. resolutions, including the release of prisoners and the return of property to Kuwait, before sanctions are eased.

But he said: "Others believe, on the contrary, that the wording itself of Resolution 687 clearly links [the settlement] of the arms question and the lifting of the embargo, and that we must stick to the letter of the text."

Washington's Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said Friday that Iraq was far from securing a lifting of sanctions because its latest revelations raised doubts about its credibility.

Iraq has retaliated by accusing the United States of seeking pretexts to keep sanctions in place.

President Saddam Hussein described Ms. Albright's comments as "absurd" on Monday, saying "it is the American leadership which lacks credibility in its respect for the U.N. Charter."

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq had revealed it had armed biological weapons ready to use against its neighbours in late 1990. Up until June, Bag-

U.S.: Iraqis should oust Saddam

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, replying to reporters' questions on Monday, said the Iraqi people should replace Saddam Hussein as their leader, but he declined to predict when that might happen.

"What we hope will happen in Iraq is that a sane, responsible and rational government will emerge to replace the one that has been led so poorly and to such disadvantage of the Iraqi people by Saddam Hussein for so many years," Mr. Burns said. "The United States believes that the Saddam regime should go — should disappear from the scene — but I'm not in a position to predict when that might take place."

He denied having an offensive biological arms programme.

It stepped up cooperation with UNSCOM after the August 8 defection to Jordan of former Iraqi Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, whom Iraq blamed for concealing the weapons secrets.

(Continued on page 7)

King, Queen begin visit to Oman

SALALAH (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Tuesday on a two-day official visit to Oman, during which King Hussein will hold talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id on bilateral relations and the latest developments on the Arab, regional and international arenas.

Upon arrival at Salalah airport King Hussein and Queen Noor were received by Sultan Qaboos, Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Ous Ben Abdel Mounim Zawawi and senior Omani officials.

The King and Queen were accorded a full hour ceremony.

The King's visit falls within the context of

ongoing consultation and coordination with Sultan Qaboos on bilateral relations and various regional and international issues of common interest.

The King is accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Ali, Hamzah and Hashem, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi.

Upon departure from Amman, King Hussein and Queen Noor were seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal family members, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, King Hussein's and Prince Hassan's advisors and senior civil and military officials.

Prince Hassan was sworn



in to serve as Regent during the King's absence.



While flying over the Saudi airspace on his way to Oman, King Hussein sent King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia a

able of best wishes. King Hussein wished King Fahd continued good health and happiness and success in leading his country towards further progress and prosperity.

Strikes imminent after Serbs held responsible for massacre

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations pledged a "strong response" Tuesday to a deadly mortar attack on the Bosnian capital after determining that it came from the Bosnian Serb army.

"The evidence is basically overwhelming," said U.N. spokesman Alexandre Ivankovic. "There will be a strong response."

In Sarajevo, officials from the contact group of major powers seeking peace in ex-Yugoslavia expressed support for military reprisals against the Bosnian Serbs after the mortar attack, a French official said.

"They gave their full support for the military reprisals that prove necessary," French foreign ministry spokesman Yves Dourleau said after meeting officials from the United States, Russia, France, Germany, Britain, Spain, Italy and Canada.

The big question is not if an attack will be carried out but whether the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) or the rapid reaction force in place to defend peacekeepers here will be tapped to do the job.

The British and Americans are pushing for NATO airstrikes, while the French, who have peacekeepers in more exposed locations, are hoping for a more limited ground response by the rapid reaction force.

Possible targets include the main Serb barracks in southern Sarajevo, called Lukavica, and Pale, the Bosnian Serb headquarters in the hills outside the Bosnian capital.

The U.N. statement issued in Sarajevo came only hours after the Bosnian Serb "Palladium" in an abrupt switch, welcomed the latest U.S. peace proposals.

The U.N. said its investigators had "concluded beyond

all reasonable doubt" that Bosnian Serbs were responsible for Monday's attack, which killed 37 men, women and children and wounded over 80 others.

A few hours earlier, U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi told reporters in Zagreb that in the event of establishing the culpability, a very strong action will be taken.

The U.N. statement said "all options are being reviewed, including the use of (NATO) air power" to punish the Bosnian Serbs for the bloodiest attack on Sarajevo in 18 months.

U.N. officials noted that if bad weather prevented a retaliatory air strike, the heavy artillery of the rapid reaction force could be brought to bear on Serb positions.

The U.N. findings refuted a Serb claim, familiar in the course of the 40-month siege of Sarajevo, that Bosnia's Muslim-led government cyni-

cally murdered its own people to win world sympathy and block peace negotiations.

The U.N. said the area of the city targeted had no military significance. "It was simply an area of markets, shops and cafes where people were busy enjoying the treacherous calm."

The Bosnian Serb parliament, fearing possible retaliation, changed course abruptly in an overnight session on Tuesday, saying it welcomed the latest U.S. peace initiative for Bosnia.

But with responsibility for the Sarajevo massacre now clearly laid at the door of their forces, the U.N., the United States and NATO may have little choice but to display their avowed new determination to counter Bosnian Serb aggression.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, in Paris for the

MENA summit plans 'fine-tuned'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preparations for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October are nearing their end, with the government and the organisers of the event, the World Economic Forum (WEF), getting down to the process of "fine-tuning" the latest details.

"Everything is under control," said WEF President Klaus Schwab, who on Tuesday ended a two-day visit to the Kingdom for talks with Jordanian officials over preparations for the summit.

Mr. Schwab, who met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, sounded optimistic about the outcome of the event, which he said will be attended by about 1,500 officials and private sector delegates from 30 countries.

"It will be a summit about which people will talk for some time to come," Mr. Schwab told the Jordan Times in an interview.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Prince Hassan as stressing the role of the MENA summit in "rehabilitating the region, which has come out from the era of wars with huge negative consequences."

Petra said Prince Hassan focused on the role of the MENA summit in building regional institutions and cooperation among the private and public sectors and international donors to produce a more balanced development of the region.

The WEF official was upbeat about the steps the Kingdom has taken to improve its investment environment. He cited the low inflation rate, the annual rate in economic growth, and the drive towards privatisation.

Mr. Schwab said the summit will aim at creating dia-

logue between the business community and the political leaderships with a view to bringing about greater private sector involvement in the development of the region.

About 700 to 800 out of the 1,500 delegates who will attend the summit will come from the private sector, said Mr. Schwab, adding that the summit will "as much as possible" be project-oriented.

Gregory Blatt, member of the WEF executive board, said the Davos-based forum sought to maintain geographical and sectoral balance among delegates to the conference.

He said the organisers have worked to ensure appropriate representation of small and medium-size companies which tend to conclude business deals quicker than large-scale corporations.

Mr. Schwab said the progress in the peace process has rendered the business climate

in the region more favourable in the eyes of international investors.

But the WEF official was careful to stress that the MENA summit is part of a process that started with the Madrid peace conference and that quick magical results should not be expected.

He warned against over-expectations from the summit, adding that projects will take time to realise.

"It is like courting a nice woman," he said. "You don't promise marriage at the first time."

The WEF official said that the MENA summit is a regional event that aims at improving the living conditions in the whole region, pointing to the importance of regional integration in the economic development process.

He said the long ground that has been covered in the peace process since the Casablanca summit last year

(Continued on page 7)

War of words started with King's speech to the nation

Fears of a perceived Jordanian upstaging of Egypt seen behind media attacks

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A war of words that has erupted between Jordan and Egypt over the defection of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel continued yesterday with the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) expressing deep disappointment and dismay at the attacks by Egyptian journalists and writers against Jordan's leadership.

The comments and editorials published in the Egyptian press against Jordan represent a departure from the traditions and ethics of the journalism profession, a statement by JPA President Suleiman Al Qudus read.

Jordanians were taken aback over the past two days after at least two articles

appeared in government-controlled Egyptian newspapers on Sunday heavily attacking His Majesty King Hussein for the way Jordan handled the defection.

Two of Jordan's leading writers, Mahmoud Al Kayed and Tareq Masarweh both of Al-Rai Arabic daily, answered the attacks on Monday, tracing their origin to a "complex" and "paranoia" developed by President Hosni Mubarak's regime over the growing marginalisation of Egypt's role in the region.

Under the headline "hallucination of an Egyptian journalist," Mr. Kayed, who is chairman of the board of Al-Rai, wrote a front-page article in which he accused the Egyptian journalists of basing their articles on flawed in-

formation.

Referring to articles by Al-Jumhuriyah editor Mafouz Al-Ansari on Sunday and Monday Mr. Kayed said Mr. Ansari "distorted history and twisted facts not knowing that by doing so he would not be able to turn white into black no matter what terms of treason or offence he used."

In his column, Mr. Masarweh launched a scathing attack against Mr. Mubarak, whom he indirectly accused of being the man who gave the order to the Egyptian journalists to write the articles.

"When the Egyptian president gives an interview to Al-Hayat newspaper in which he compares Jordan (of four million people) to Egypt (of 60 million people), does he

propose that Egypt should be Jordan's guardian? Mr. Masarweh asked.

In its statement Tuesday the JPA said: "The Egyptian press has violated Arab and international press codes, including the Arab press code of honour which was endorsed by the Arab Journalists Federation and the International Organisation of Journalists to which the Egyptian journalists are committed."

Expressing the association's deep regret over the behaviour of Egyptian journalists, Mr. Qudus stressed that freedom of journalists to exercise their duties and express their opinions freely "is governed by objective professional principles, set to safeguard higher national interests and to prevent them

from exploiting such freedom to level attacks against persons."

The articles in Al-Ahram and Al-Jumhuriyah puzzled politicians and observers after the Egyptian foreign minister's visit which was intended to clear the atmosphere following remarks by President Mubarak that he was kept in the dark over the defection of the high-ranking Iraqi official.

Officials believe that Cairo's wrath against Jordan stems from what they described as the Egyptian government's growing frustration at the loss of Egypt's role in events being shaped in the region.

The emerging Jordanian role vis-a-vis Iraq adds to the Egyptian government's sense of helplessness in assuming a

leading role in events shaping the Arab World after the Gulf crisis," said a source close to the government who requested anonymity.

Some analysts believe that Cairo's frustration started with the signing of the September 1993 Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (DoP) without Egypt's direct involvement and the October 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty without consulting the Egyptian leadership.

As one of them pointed out, Egypt is not happy about not being the main party to be influencing the new emerging regional order, in which Israel is trying to assume a key status.

"After the Jordan-Israeli treaty, everyone is positioning themselves in the region,

especially Israel, which is deriving strength from its warm relations with and support of Jordan," said the analyst, adding that this contradicts Egypt's aspirations to shaping "an Arab power led by Cairo rather than a Middle Eastern order led by Israel."

"Egypt, whose peace accord with Israel preceded both the Jordan-Israeli treaty and the DoP, found its role being marginalised in shaping the political changes in the region," said the official, adding that "this feeling grew stronger following the defection of Gen. Hassan to Jordan, a move which automatically gave Jordan a role in the events to follow."

Gen. Hassan's Aug. 8 defection to Jordan and King

(Continued on page 7)

Ross tries to remove self-rule hitches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross met Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres separately on Tuesday to discuss obstacles blocking expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

Mr. Peres, after his talks with Mr. Ross, said he would probably meet Mr. Arafat at the beginning of next week to try to iron out remaining differences.

Mr. Arafat, who held talks with Mr. Ross first in Gaza, told reporters later that his forces had arrested more than 30 Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas supporters in the self-rule enclave.

"Just 30? More than that," Mr. Arafat said when asked about Israeli security source reports 30 Hamas men were detained.

Hamas and a second militant group, Islamic Jihad, have led Palestinian opposition to peace moves with Israel.

Israeli security sources said the Gaza sweep was part of the search for Hamas's master bomb-maker, Yahya Abu Ayyash, whom Israel says planned suicide bombings against its citizens with the intention of killing the peace process.

Israel meanwhile eased the six-day closure of Jericho and said the measure would be fully lifted the next day, following violent protests in the West Bank town.

"The blockade on the autonomous zone of Jericho will be lifted tomorrow at 4 a.m." (0100 GMT), said an Israeli army spokesman.

Women, children and men over the age of 35 were already allowed to leave the enclave from dawn on Tuesday.

The closure was imposed last Wednesday as part of a manhunt for wanted Hamas militants.

The Palestinians suspended autonomy talks with Israel for several hours on Monday to protest the army's closure of Jericho, which prevented one of their negotiators from travelling from the town to the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat to take part.

Jericho inhabitants staged violent protests against the closure and three Israeli police officers were injured when demonstrators threw rocks at the main army checkpoint into the town.

Troops used tear-gas to disperse the crowds, Palestinian police said.

Israel set up roadblocks and prevented people from entering or leaving Jericho in an attempt to flush out militants.

Security services believe Mohieddin Sharif, a Muslim fundamentalist, was involved in a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem last week which killed three Israelis and an American, and is hiding in Jericho.

A Palestinian court sentenced two other suspects in the bombing to jail terms of 12 and seven years, after the self-rule authority refused to hand them over to Israel.

Immediately after meeting Mr. Ross, Mr. Arafat said: "We cannot forget that Mr. Ross is doing all his best to push forward the peace process and the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians and we have to thank him from our hearts."

Mr. Ross then travelled to occupied Jerusalem and met Mr. Peres.

"Probably it will be at the beginning of the next week. It will be between Mr. Arafat and myself," Mr. Peres, speaking to reporters with Mr. Ross after their talks, replied when asked when he might meet Mr. Arafat.

(Continued on page 2)

Tokyo formally adopts plan to join Golan force

TOKYO (R) — Japan formally decided to take part in a U.N. peacekeeping operation in the Golan Heights on Tuesday, the first dispatch of Japanese troops to the Middle East, a government spokesman said.

Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama endorsed the plan to relieve a Canadian transport unit stationed in the Golan Heights for two years starting next February, government spokesman Koken Nosaka said.

"We are ready to fulfil our responsibility in headquarters and transport duties," Mr. Nosaka said.

After months of discussion, Mr. Murayama's Socialist Party approved the plan last week on condition that Japanese troops would be limited to a non-combat role within the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Other conditions included a contingency plan for Tokyo to order a pullout directly should a shooting war develop, without consultations with UNDOF. The unit of about 50 men will carry only pistols.

It would be Japan's fourth participation in U.N. peacekeeping and refugee aid operations after Cambodia in 1992-1993, in Mozambique in 1993 and in Zaire for

Rwandan refugees last year. It would be the first time for Japan to send troops to the Middle East. Before the 1990-1991 Gulf war, Japan was under heavy pressure to send a token force to join the U.S.-led allies but refused because there was no legal provision for deployment of troops overseas.

Japan was criticised heavily for the no-show and ended up paying a \$13 billion "contribution" and sending a flotilla of minesweepers after the ceasefire, but the moves did not impress the allies.

The government at the time immediately began preparations to push through a law that would at least open the way for Japan to send troops in the peacekeeping role under the U.N. The Peacekeeping Operations Act became law in June 1992 despite fierce opposition from the pacifist socialists.

Mr. Murayama's Socialists are now in a coalition with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which pushed through that legislation.

The pacifist 1947 constitution, however, bans the use of the military to settle international disputes, which meant that Japan's Self-Defence Forces could not perform combat roles.

The government will send

an expert study team to the Golan Heights in October before deciding on the details of the plan, Mr. Nosaka said.

"Ministers concerned should now proceed with preparation towards February's dispatch," said Mr. Nosaka, also deputy head of Japan's international peace cooperation headquarters.

Mr. Nosaka noted a ceasefire agreement was in place, a requirement for sending Japanese troops abroad.

The Japanese troops will mainly transport goods since the three-party agreement rules out duties involving weapons, ammunition or armed forces of other countries. Fifty Canadian peacekeepers are due to leave next February.

Defence Agency Director-General Seisiro Eto said at a news conference that Japanese peacekeepers would probably be equipped with machine guns instead of handguns used in previous missions.

"The Canadian troops are equipped with pistols, handguns and machine guns," he reportedly said.

The Social Democrats want the peacekeepers equipped only with handguns while the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest ruling party, want them to have handguns and machine guns.

Ross tries to remove self-rule hitches

(Continued from page 1)

"I think in everything I've heard and in the discussions that we've now had, going over a variety of the issues, I'm encouraged. I see them pressing ahead. There is still some work to be done," Mr. Ross said.

Israel and the PLO are negotiating at Eilat the final details of a deal expanding self-rule, now limited to Gaza and Jericho.

Israeli officials said Mr. Ross proposed collecting \$100 million from international donors for the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Ross told Mr. Peres that the \$100 million would cover the Palestinian budget deficit for this year. The budget for March to December runs to \$450 million.

In Eilat, Israel and the PLO clashed over control of the West Bank's electricity network in negotiations to extend self-rule in the territory, the Israeli energy ministry said.

Energy Minister Gonen Segov held talks with negotiators at Eilat in an effort to overcome differences with the Palestinians over the power supply in the territory.

A ministry spokesman said Mr. Segov proposed that Israel should retain control over the network and development projects but should give the Palestinians responsibility for maintenance work on the lines.

The Palestinian delegation rejected his proposals and demanded control over the whole network.

According to a letter published Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has told residents of the Jewish West

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 die in blaze in Turkish shop in Germany

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — Two people died and four were injured in a fire which gutted a Turkish shop in southern Germany early on Tuesday, police said. Residents of a 17-storey apartment block in the city of Ulm told police they heard a loud bang and watched as fire spread through one of the shops on the ground floor. Police said they were not ruling out arson but added there were no leads that pointed to a racist or politically-motivated attack. Four other shops were damaged by the fire. After putting the blaze out, firefighters found the bodies of two men who apparently had suffocated from the fumes. More than two dozen Turkish properties have been targeted by a series of firebomb attacks over the last two months. German police believe outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) activists, fighting for independence or autonomy in southeastern Turkey, were behind the attacks.

Kuwait declares military zone near capital

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government on Tuesday declared a 414-square kilometre coastal area north of Kuwait city a military zone and banned civilians from entering it. A decree by Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamud Al Sabah published in the government gazette did not give a reason for the move or state the duration of the ban. The decree was published with a map showing a square-shaped area on the northern shore of Kuwait bay identified as Jal Al Zour National Park. Newspapers earlier this month said the zone would serve unspecified military purposes and would also help protect wildlife.

Cyprus murder linked to Russian mafia

LIMASSOL (AP) — A Cypriot taxi driver was shot dead Monday and police reportedly suspect the attack may have been carried out by Russian mafia gunmen. A police statement said Andreas Hadjiavassilis, 31, was driving near a nightclub at an isolated spot outside town when he was hit by a hail of 25 to 30 bullets. State-run Cyprus Radio said police suspect the attack may be the work of Russian mafia gunmen because Hadjiavassilis worked closely with Russian business executives in Limassol. A police spokesman was unable to confirm the radio report, saying investigations into the killing had just begun. Limassol, a south coast port and business centre, is a favourite spot for Russian tourists. It also has attracted hundreds of Russian executives. Police have linked at least one previous shooting in Limassol to Russian criminal gangs demanding protection money from fellow Russians.

Somaliand frees detained foreigners

NAIROBI (AFP) — Authorities in the breakaway Horn of Africa republic of Somaliand have released five foreigners detained for a week charged with violating the country's airspace, Somaliand President Mohammad Ibrahim Egal said Tuesday. Mr. Egal told AFP by telephone from Hargeisa, Somaliand's capital, that his government had decided to release a Swedish diplomat, an Italian, a Frenchman and two Kenyans held after they landed their small passenger plane at Hargeisa airport unannounced on Aug. 21. The release followed appeals from the detained men's governments, he said. A sixth foreigner, a Norwegian police officer was freed on Friday after negotiations between Norwegian officials and President Egal. The chartered plane had flown to Somaliand from Nairobi to deport three Somalis expelled from Scandinavian countries. "We have requested the court drop the charges against the five," Mr. Egal said. The foreigners were still in Hargeisa on Tuesday morning waiting for a plane chartered from Nairobi by the Swedish embassy to fly them out.

Jihad militant group in danger of split

CAIRO (AFP) — A dispute between two leaders of Al Jihad is threatening to tear apart the Egyptian militant group, the Arabic daily Al Hayat reported Tuesday. Jihad's chief Ayman Al Zawahiri has been accused by his deputy, Said Abdul Al, of printing distorted passages from Abdul Al's book on Islamic studies in the group's Swiss-based newsletter. Al Hayat said it received a statement from Jihad members opposed to Mr. Zawahiri accusing him of misrepresenting the book. "It is forbidden to change even one letter of the book, and those involved in the distorted publication of this work are the accomplices of evil," they protested. Al Jihad militants assassinated former President Anwar Al Sadat in 1981. A dispute emerged within the group two years ago after its military wing Taleh Al Fatah was set up. Mr. Zawahiri was condemned to death in absentia in 1992.

24 killed in road accident in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Twenty-four people were killed and 15 seriously injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a trailer truck in eastern Iran, newspapers reported Tuesday. The accident occurred Monday in Khorasan province after the truck driver fell asleep, causing his vehicle to veer to the left of the road. Both drivers were among the dead.

Pakistan will consider Israel ties

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan will consider recognition of Israel only after a comprehensive Middle East settlement and on the basis of a consensus in the Muslim world, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Tuesday. "We would first of all like to see a comprehensive Middle East settlement," and then move in line with a "consensus within the Organisation of Islamic Conference itself," she told reporters. Welcoming recent talks between Syria and Israel, Ms. Bhutto said she hoped these would lead to resolution of the question of Israeli-held Golan Heights and other "outstanding" issues. Ms. Bhutto said she regretted not being able to visit Gaza last year while she was in Egypt.

Iran: No expulsion of diplomats

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday denied reports that Iran and Germany had each expelled two diplomats from the other country.

A hardline Iranian newspaper, Jamhuri Islami, said Sunday that Iran had given Matthias Gutzeit and George Stollenwerk, the head of the visa section and an employee of the German consulate respectively, two weeks to leave after the alleged expulsion of two Iranian diplomats from Bonn.

Iran's main armed opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, reported the expulsion of the Iranians last week, identifying them as Ali Osooli, third secretary of the Iranian embassy in Bonn and Seyid Jalal. Abbasi, a member of the Iranian consulate in Frankfurt.

They had been ordered out for "violating international diplomatic conventions," it said.

But an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman told the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) that the diplomats had only returned to Iran after "their tenure had come to an end."

It was the first official comment from either Tehran or Bonn on the news of the expulsions, which came unexpectedly amid good relations between Iran and Germany, the Islamic republic's top trade partner.

Kayban daily, which is close to Islamic fundamentalists, also reported the affair, confirming the earlier report by the Mujahadeen.

The paper warned on Saturday: "The expulsion of the Iranian diplomats will definitely have a negative impact on relations between the two countries."

The official media as well as moderate dailies withheld any comments.

U.N. protests Yemeni deportation of Somalis

CAIRO (R) — The U.N. refugee agency on Tuesday protested to Yemen for deporting more than 400 Somali refugees and accused Yemeni police of beating up refugees in a clampdown on illegal aliens.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said 418 refugees, among some 1,200 Somalis arrested in the southern port city of Aden over the past 10 days, were deported on Sunday.

The refugees, half of them registered with the UNHCR, were taken from jail and put on board a ship believed to be heading for Bossaso in northern Somalia, said a UNHCR statement sent to Reuters in Cairo.

It said the UNHCR protested to Yemeni government over the deportations that followed a crackdown on illegal aliens in which police

arrested 3,000 foreigners since Aug. 21, mostly in Aden.

"According to some reports, police involved in the operation beat refugees, destroyed property, forcibly separated adults from their children and confiscated documents proving refugee status," the statement said.

While police released many refugees who were able to produce UNHCR documentation — an assistance card only issued to head of family — family members who did not hold any documentation were detained and in some cases deported, it said.

Several thousand Somalis took refuge in Yemen in the early 1990s to escape war in the Horn of Africa country.

The UNHCR said it had 11,877 Somalis registered as refugees in Yemen, but there were at least another 8,000 unregistered.

Birthplace of Turkey's hat revolution slumbers on

KASTAMONU (R) — This remote province, once a staging ground for one of Turkey's most radical cultural reforms, remained largely forgotten on Sunday's anniversary of the forced introduction of the European-style hat to the Turkish wardrobe.

Kemal Ataturk, creator of modern Turkey, toured Kastamonu 70 years ago to campaign against what he saw as two threats confronting his new secular state: The "un-civilised" fezzes and the Islamic brotherhoods.

But his effort — culminating in the "hat speech" on Aug. 27, 1925, that introduced the "cover with a brim" — has done little for Kastamonu, still a neglected corner of western Turkey bordering the Black Sea.

"Nothing has changed here, we have not been integrated (into the Turkish economy)," said Suleyman Yucel, the town's mayor.

There is virtually no industry and little investment in Kastamonu's agrarian economy, Mr. Yucel said. Hundreds of thousands have left the province in search of work in Istanbul.

Most of the town's women wear headscarves and men frequently don the knit cap popular among Turkey's Islamists. "We've been forgotten," said the mayor.

Largely ignored, too, was the anniversary — at least by Turkey's political leaders, who generally make ceremonial appearances at the drop of a bat.

Only a delegation from Crimea and dancers from the Caucasus joined the festivities.

At the Kastamonu museum, two bored soldiers, on leave from their unit, pored over the grainy black-

and-white photographs recording Ataturk's tour. Curator Suleyman Filiz said the nearby skeleton of a Roman woman was a bigger draw.

In its day, the hat speech was as radical a development as any of the changes surrounding the rise of secular Turkey. One Ataturk biographer called it "an open declaration of national policy in which civilisation was equated with costume."

In modern Turkey, Western-style clothing is dominant in the cities but traditional baggy trousers and Muslim "caps retain their popularity in rural areas.

The wearing of the fez, once a symbol of Ottoman power, died out quickly after it was outlawed and today it is rarely seen except on sale at tourist sites.

Ataturk also used his Kastamonu tour to outlaw the

Islamic orders and seize their property.

Riots broke out in November 1925, in conservative eastern Turkey when parliament followed Ataturk's lead and formally banned the fez and required men to wear the hat.

Three months before, the hero of Turkish independence had astounded his listeners in the Black Sea port of Inebolu by branding the fez, standard headgear for Turkish males, and the cloak as uncivilised.

"A civilised international dress is worthy and appropriate for our nation, and we will wear it," Ataturk declared. "Boots or shoes on our feet, trousers on our legs, shirt and tie, jacket and waistcoat — and, of course, to complete this, a cover with a brim for our heads."

"I want to make this clear. This head covering is called 'a bat'," he said, using the word "sapak" borrowed from the infidel Selves.

The museum's exhibit reveals Ataturk sporting a gleaming Panama hat throughout his visit. His aides gamely followed his example, some clutching the new badge with ill-concealed suspicion.

The soldiers in the museum, however, were sceptical that Ataturk's drive had done much to change ingrained social and political attitudes in the tradition-bound province.

"It's easy to change people's hats, it's not easy to change their minds," said Mehmet Girmec. "Changing the hat is easy, but the hat must change me."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	TIME
14:00 ... Problem Child	14:00
14:30 ... Super Champs	14:30
15:00 ... Tomorrow's World	15:00
15:30 ... Amazing Stories	15:30
16:00 ... Families	16:00
17:00 ... Children's Programme — Rahan	17:00
17:30 ... Téléfilm "Les Cinq Derniers Minutes"	17:30
19:00 ... News in French	19:00
19:15 ... Ushuaia	19:15
19:30 ... News Headlines	19:30
19:35 ... An Endless Silence	19:35
20:00 ... Anything for a Laugh	20:00
20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful	20:30
21:15 ... Heart of Heating	21:15
22:00 ... News in English	22:00
22:25 ... Frisn	22:25
22:45 ... Drama — Blue Skies	22:45
23:30 ... Murder in Texas	23:30
00:30 ... Perfect Strangers	00:30

PRAYER TIMES

TIME	PRAYER
04:43 ... Fajr	04:43
06:04 ... (Sunrise) Duha	06:04
12:36 ... Dhuhur	12:36
16:13 ... 'Asr	16:13
19:08 ... Maghrib	19:08
20:29 ... 'Isha	20:29

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweileh. Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Teressacene Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
American Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
American Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Antiochian Orthodox Church Tel. 625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649352.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop further becoming below average by two degrees centigrade with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND JORDAN

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	75121
Highway Police	834302
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	871111
Complaints	871111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	Hussein Medical Centre	61813032
	Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	64428116
	Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	64424112
	Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
	Mathias, J. Amman	636140
	Palestine, Shmcani	66417114
	Shmcani Hospital	669131
	University Hospital	845845
	Al-Musader Hospital	66722719
	The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
	Al-Ahli, Abdali	66616446
	Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771013
	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich	77511126
	Army, Bmarka	89161175
	Queen Alia Hospital	60224030
	Amal Hospital	674135
	The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	853199
	Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
	Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
	Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)996732
	Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)999990
	IBRDs:	
	Prince Basmal Hospital	(02)275555
	Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272278
	Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100

ARRIVALS

TIME	FLIGHT	FROM
06:00	Damascus (RJ)	06:00
06:15	Doha (add) (RJ)	06:15
06:30	Jeddah (RJ)	06:30
06:45	Larnaca (RJ)	06:45
06:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	06:50
11:40	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	11:40
16:50	Madrid (RJ)	16:50
18:00	Paris (RJ)	18:00
18:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	18:00
18:15	Istanbul (RJ)	18:15
18:35	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)	18:35
19:00	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)	19:00
19:10	Dubai, New Delhi (RJ)	19:10
19:15	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)	19:15
	London, Berlin (RJ)	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

TIME	FLIGHT	TO
10:50	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)	10:50
11:30	Jeddah (SV)	11:30
13:15	Cairo (MS)	13:15
13:40	Abu Dhabi (GF)	13:40
17:45	London, Beirut (BA)	17:45
18:50	Athens (PK)	18:50
19:35	Antalya (TK)	19:35
21:00	Dubai (EK)	21:00
21:10	Beirut (ME)	21:10
22:00	Samsa (IY)	22:00
22:45	Algiers (AH)	22:45
23:05	Larnaca (CY)	23:05
23:20	Amsterdam (KL)	23:20
23:30	Athens (OA)	23:30

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

TIME	FLIGHT	TO
06:25	Amman (RJ)	06:25
10:50	Amman, New York (RJ)	10:50
11:25	Rome (RJ)	11:25
11:40	Berlin, London (RJ)	11:40
12:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)	12:10
12:45	Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)	12:45
13:00	Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)	13:00
18:20	Columbo (RJ)	18:20
18:30	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)	18:30
21:10	Beirut (RJ)	21:10
21:10	Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)	21:10
21:30	Dubai, New Delhi (RJ)	21:30
21:35	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)	21:35
21:35	Aden (RJ)	21:35
22:00	Dubai (add) (RJ)	22:00

DEPARTURES

TIME	FLIGHT	TO

UNRWA dean protests against closure of sciences college

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Dean of UNRWA's Educational Sciences College, Izz Eddin Manasrah, said he was Tuesday summoned by the agency for questioning over his public protest against UNRWA's decision to close down the college.

Dr. Manasrah told the Jordan Times that UNRWA's Director of the Palestinian Refugees Affairs in Jordan warned him that the agency would "apply the law against him" for breaking the rules by speaking publicly against the decision.

The dean does not have the right to protest against the decision to close down the college, Dr. Manasrah quoted the UNRWA official as having told him.

UNRWA officials were not available for comment yesterday.

Dr. Manasrah had protested against the decision in newspaper articles.

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, decided to shut down the college after the graduation of its 522 present students, attributing the decision to budget constraints.

"The agency has taken a faulty political decision by failing to evaluate its priorities when it decided to reduce expenditures. This reduction will be at the expense of Palestinian refugees' education in Jordan," Dr. Manasrah said in a news-

paper article published by Al Rai daily.

"The problem of the Palestinian refugee is not resolved and they have not yet gained their legitimate rights," he added in protest against the agency's decision to cut down the services it offers to the students.

Dr. Manasrah expressed hope that UNRWA would reverse its decision to close down the college, which was established in 1993 to serve Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

"Those refugees have the right to obtain their bachelor degrees, the minimum requirement for landing a job," he added.

Dr. Manasrah said that UNRWA could reverse its plans to close down the college under public and official pressure, describing as "arbitrary" the decision which was announced on Aug. 23.

Dr. Manasrah said the college has taken important steps to improve the quality of the education it offers despite the financial constraints under which it operates.

"I have accomplished a series of academic reforms to obtain accreditation from the Ministry of Higher Education," he said.

Rejecting arguments that the reasons behind closing down the college are financial, Dr. Manasrah said that the costs for running the college are "minimal."

He said that if UNRWA decides to proceed with its decision, "it might start reducing its services in other fields that include education, health

and social services."

The dean urged UNRWA's General Commissioner to reverse this decision, and asked the government to come to an understanding with UNRWA that would guarantee the continuation of the college's work.

An UNRWA college in Ramallah had the same problem but was saved by a foreign country that has taken full responsibility of its expenses," Dr. Manasrah said, expressing hope the college in Jordan would get the same chance.

Dr. Manasrah said that he hoped the college be given a new lease of life because of the number of Palestinian refugees who benefit from it.

"I will accept any legal action that might be taken against me as long as they do not shut down the college," he said.

Among the 522 student enrolled at the college are some UNRWA school teachers who have been selected to obtain their bachelor degrees in elementary education and Arabic language.

The college does not have its own budget and its expenditures are covered by allocations from the Amman Vocational Training College budget.

UNRWA is responsible for the financial and administrative supervision of the college, while the Ministry of Higher Education takes care of academic supervision.

Jordan urges investment in regional agriculture

'Food security means political security' — Ben Tarif

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has called on Arab governments and concerned organizations to invest more in agriculture in order to increase food production and ensure food security for the Arab people.

Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif made the call to a pan-Arab conference on agricultural development which opened in Amman Tuesday with the participation of agricultural experts from 12 Arab countries.

There is an urgent need for the exploitation of vast areas of agricultural lands in Sudan, Algeria and Iraq for the increase in food production and for the end to imbalances between food production and food consumption in the Arab World, said the minister in an opening address to the three-day meeting.

An increase in investment depends on cooperation between the financial institutions of public and private sectors, Mr. Ben Tarif said. Food security will have its positive effect in ensuring political security, the minister said.

As to the situation in Jordan,

the minister said that agriculture contributes by at least 19 per cent towards the Kingdom's overall exports, employs nearly seven per cent of the country's workforce and constitutes a source of living for 22 per cent of the Jordanian population.

He said agriculture is an important productive sector, contributing to nearly 28 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

In its drive to maximise the benefits of agriculture in the Jordan Valley, the government has constantly sought cooperation with regional and international organizations, the minister said.

To finance agricultural schemes, the government established the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) more than 30 years ago to channel low-interest loans to farmers, helping them to buy equipment, seeds and other inputs, according to

Mr. Ben Tarif. Since its establishment the ACC has granted loans totalling JD 171 million to 115,000 farmers.

Dr. Yahya Bakkour, director general of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) organising the meeting, told the audience that agriculture in the Arab World suffers from poor technology and is in need of large funds to help it increase and improve food production.



Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif (second left) Tuesday urges investment in agricultural production in the Arab region during a press conference on agriculture in Amman (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Hot-line opens up to legally abused women

By Loka Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If you are a woman and in need of legal or personal counselling, or simply need someone to lend you an ear, the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) has established a hot-line to receive confidential calls and give advice.

Manager of the programme lawyer Sawwan Ishaq said: "Most Jordanian women are ignorant of their legal rights, and that this ignorance leads to an exploitation of their rights."

The hot-line, which has been receiving calls since June, has not been publicly announced due to a lack of funds.

The lack of funds also stand in the way of training

women volunteers on handling calls.

"So far I am the only person giving counselling, while there should be a roundtable of women specialised in psychology, education, and a social worker," Ms. Ishaq said.

The JWU, an administrative and financially independent centre, which was dissolved twice in 1975 and in 1981, is seeking financial help from foreign embassies.

"These embassies have pointed out that they would like to see the line extended to abused children, and men who also might be seeking legal consultation."

The idea behind establishing a hot-line in Jordan came after the success of a similar experiment in the West

Bank.

"Organisers of the hot-line in the West Bank are highly qualified, and they are willing to come over and train us," said Ms. Ishaq.

After theoretical training in Jordan, two of the volunteers would be chosen for practical training in the West Bank, she added.

Most women who call the hot-line are too embarrassed to approach the consultation centre directly.

The consultation centre was established in January to access women to information about their rights as well as to help them through their personal problems.

"Even over the phone some women take time to open up to us," said Ms. Ishaq.

In some cases the counselor of the hot-line goes

beyond giving advice.

In one instance, an anonymous phone call from a friend of an 18-year-old university student, attempting to commit suicide for the second time sent Ms. Ishaq straight to the hospital to speak directly to the girl.

After some counselling with both the girl and her family, Ms. Ishaq is pleased with her results.

"Now she is an active member in the union and is full of energy and life," Ms. Ishaq cannot, for the time being, fully evaluate the project since the hot line concept in Jordan is new and therefore alien to many women.

"I cannot say that we have succeeded so far, but neither have we failed."

The telephone number for the hot-line is 698 522.

Irbid Al Hassan industrial city to expand with JD 1m factory building contract

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) is expanding the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid by the addition of more factory buildings worth JD 1 million.

JIEC Director General Faysal Subeimat signed a contract with a local firm to add a total of 14,000 square metres of buildings to the existing structure in order to accommodate additional factories.

He told the Jordan Times that the industrial city built near Irbid in 1991, now has 60 factories but the JIEC has

been receiving numerous demands for more factory business.

The JIEC's procedures are to carry out the constructions and lay out the infrastructure for basic services like electricity, telephones, water and sewerage networks or provide private sector firms with plots of land on which can build their own factories at the industrial city.

The new project for expansion, Mr. Subeimat said, entails setting up 16 new buildings with areas ranging from 328 square metres to 970 square metres.

Work on the project is expected to be completed by February of next year.

Dr. Subeimat explained that the JIEC offers incentives to investors to either lease or buy land or factory buildings with full infrastructure services.

The JIEC has established two industrial cities (one near Sahab, south east of Amman, built in 1984 and the other in Irbid) as part of future plans for the existence of five industrial cities in the country, to meet the growing needs of investors from Jordan and abroad.

Poland to participate in MENA summit

By Dr. Tayseer Masharqah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Poland sees a pivotal role for Jordan in the Middle East peace process and recognises His Majesty King Hussein as one of the pioneers of peace in the region, according to Edmund Pawlak, the Polish ambassador to Jordan.

Dr. Pawlak, who is expected to end his mandate before the end of the year, told the Jordan Times in an interview that there can be no return from the peace process despite certain difficulties along its path.

Poland, for its part, is keen on supporting the peace process and ready to contribute to its success and it is for this reason Poland will take part in the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due here in October which it considers an important event



Edmund Pawlak

for the whole region, said the ambassador.

I believe that the upcoming conference will serve as a forum for practical discussions rather than merely a

place for drafting declarations, said Dr. Pawlak.

The new political order in the region can only be enhanced by economic support, the ambassador said, and the MENA conference is bound to discuss economic security on the lines of the European conference on Security and Cooperation as suggested by his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Poland has been working on strengthening its ties with all Arab countries, the ambassador said, and while Jordanian-Polish ties can be described as good, there is room for further strengthening of mutual accords between them in several fields.

Dr. Pawlak said the volume of trade between the two countries reached \$55 million in 1989, with Jordan exporting nearly \$41 million worth of phosphate to Polish

markets. That was the largest trade volume exchanged by the two countries on record, the ambassador said.

What is needed, said the ambassador, is an effort on the part of the chambers of commerce in Jordan and Poland to exchange visits as a prelude to further promoting bilateral trade.

The ambassador also said that in view of the great number of Jordanian students in Polish universities, the time had come for the two countries to draft an agreement to guarantee Jordan's recognition of Polish university degrees.

The ambassador expressed regret that no senior Jordanian official had yet paid a visit to Poland even though both countries have had diplomatic relations for the last 30 years.

"Do you know about KLM's latest surprise?"

"Yes, it is their New Boeing 767-300ER daily to Amman as of August 30th, 1995."

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KLM office - Amman Tel 655267. The Reliable Airline

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN
SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works of graphic art by several artists.
- * Photography show 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hodeib.
- * Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi.
- * Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamet.
- * Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali.
- * 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Kha-

EXHIBITIONS

- * Abstract art by the late artist Adnan Hilu at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- * Paintings by Pioneers of the Fifties Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.

FILM

- * 'The Merry Mishaps of Mr. Bean' at the British Council at 7.00 pm.

5 World News

Jordan Times, Wednesday August 30, 1995



An African delegate arrives for the first meeting of African women at the African tent-site of the NGO Women's Forum in Huairou, 60 kilometres northeast of Beijing. The women discussed the problems they were having with registration, hotel reservations, transportation and language (AFP photo)

Beijing attacks Amnesty for 'prejudice'

BEIJING (R) — Only hours after Amnesty International attacked China's human rights record in its first news conference in the country Tuesday, Beijing accused the group of harbouring deep prejudices against China.

In the past two weeks, China has executed 16 people as part of a security operation in the name of making its capital safe for the United Nations fourth World Conference on Women, which opens Monday, Pierre Sane, secretary-general of the London-based human-rights group, told reporters.

"We have heard virtually every excuse from governments to justify human rights violations but this is simply unbelievable," he said. "To welcome the world to Beijing, must people die?"

China has a grave human rights record, Mr. Sane said. It was common for dissidents to be arrested and people to be executed before major festivals and international and political events in China, as well as at other times, he said.

Repression of prominent dissidents and human rights activists has intensified since 1994, with scores held without charges and members of religious groups who refuse to join official churches harassed, fined or detained, he added.

But Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian told a regular news briefing that Amnesty's allegations were groundless. "It is an organisation that has always harboured deep prejudices against China," he said.

He suggested Amnesty was abusing the privilege of coming to China to participate in a non-governmental forum on women.

"Any organisation or individual that attends the U.N. Conference on Women should not use it as an opportunity to interfere in China's internal affairs," Chen said. "Of course, this applies to Amnesty International too."

Amnesty is in Beijing to attend both the non-governmental forum and the U.N. conference that will debate and approve a blueprint for action to promote women's rights and status.

It is the first time Beijing has allowed members of the human-rights organisation to enter China openly.

Beijing dismisses accusations by Amnesty and other Western human-rights groups, saying they amount to interference in its internal affairs and ignore its achievements in feeding and

clothing 20 per cent of the world's population.

Mr. Sane said Amnesty held consultative status with the United Nations and had taken part in all regular preparatory meetings for the U.N. conference. It would have been very odd not to allow Amnesty to come to Beijing, he said.

Amnesty staff said they had been treated the same as other NGO participants, although their bags had been inspected at the apartments in a Beijing suburb where some were staying, while those of most other delegates had not.

They were allowed to keep all the documents they brought in, including those in Chinese, they said.

Amnesty had written to the government to ask for a chance to raise its concerns directly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or Ministry of Justice during its visit, Mr. Sane said.

Amnesty also wants a specific commitment that torture by state agents was one of the most common forms of violence suffered by women and that any state agent suspected of being responsible for torture be brought to justice.

Amnesty is in Beijing to address human rights of women not only in China but all over the world, he added.

Meanwhile the foreign women who arrived in Huairou were suffering jet-lag and culture shock.

Some of the local Chinese people are grumbling that the tight security the new arrivals have attracted makes it seem like their once sleepy town is under martial law.

With just one day to go before the world's biggest

women's conference ever staged gets underway, the residents of Huairou and their 26,000 female guests were sizing each other up, a little warily, Tuesday.

"It's martial law," complained a grocery-shop owner called Zhang Surveying the police checkpoints along the roads and the signs everywhere that read "forbidden zone."

"I'm disappointed," said Dorothy Nyong'o, a delegate from the Africa regional office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Ms. Nyong'o was upset because her pressure group, one of hundreds that have come to lobby the United Nations conference from a base in suburban Huairou, has too little space.

Zhang was agitated because of the hordes of delegates who have overrun the town.

But what did they all expect?

"This is a huge gathering. To expect everything to go smoothly is to expect too much," reasoned Fanaura Kingstone, a delegate from the Cook Islands.

"I've met a lot of very cross and grumbling people," she said. "I think they need a little smack on the bum."

Huairou is almost an hour's drive from the centre of Beijing, where the U.N. conference starts on Sept. 4. The women were shunted out there after a last-minute panic by Beijing officials with visions of radical feminists running riot through their orderly capital.

Now the delegates from non-government advocacy groups are standing on street corners peering at maps and wondering where

on earth they have ended up.

Many have to make do with a hard bed in \$5-a-night dormitory-style accommodation. Some have taken one look at their spartan quarters and moved on.

But Lesley Roden from the town of Budleigh Salterton in Britain is stoical. "If you want the Ritz you pay Ritz prices. So you can't complain," she said.

Controversy over the siting of the Non-Governmental Organisation Forum on Women '95, and Beijing's refusal to allow in certain delegates, including some from Taiwan and Tibet, has not deterred commercial sponsors.

On billboards all over Huairou, apple computer advertises itself proudly as the technical sponsor of the event. Hong Kong-based clothing retailer esprit is giving away bags that say "look at the world through women's eyes."

Even Ronald McDonald has popped up to offer hamburger and French fry lunches.

But the Chinese sponsors are taking no chances.

Access to areas where the pressure groups are setting up stalls is through security gates equipped with baggage X-ray machines and staffed by female body-friskers issued with white gloves.

A local taxi driver said he and his colleagues had instructions not to pick up delegates except at officially approved stands "in case they're carrying infectious diseases, like cholera."

That's not the kind of message coming across in banners hung all over Huairou carrying the official slogan of the conference "equality development and peace."



Pierre Sane, secretary general of Amnesty International, speaks at a press conference Tuesday in Beijing as a colleague holds up Amnesty's report entitled Women in China which the group plans to distribute at the Women's NGO Forum (AFP photo)

Ulster party to pick new head after Molyneux resignation

BELFAST (AFP) — The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), Northern Ireland's largest political grouping, set about choosing a new leader Tuesday after the surprise resignation of 16-year veteran James Molyneux threw a curve to Ulster's faltering peace process.

The party announced a leadership election to name Mr. Molyneux's successor would be held on Sept. 8.

Speculation over Mr. Molyneux's future had been life since the beginning of

the year, both because of his age, 75, and because certain factions of the UUP consider he had grown too moderate and overly conciliatory to Prime Minister John Major's Tory government.

But the timing Monday came as a surprise — days before Friday's first anniversary of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) historic ceasefire — and sparked speculation about the effect on London's flagging efforts to organise all-party Ulster peace talks.

Molyneux, who led the UUP's nine House of Commons members, had been a key player in the burgeoning peace process and a valuable asset in London's behind-the-scenes moves that led to last year's IRA truce, matched weeks later by the loyalist paramilitaries.

However he had come under fire from UUP hardliners over his support for the December 1993 Anglo-Irish peace declaration, which set the peace process in motion but which they

saw as a first step towards the united Ireland they oppose at any cost.

Mr. Molyneux and Mr. Major had a private meeting Tuesday at the premier's summer residence, Chequers, northwest of London, as UUP leaders met here to set up the mechanism by which the party's ruling Ulster Unionist Council, will replace the leader.

So far Tuesday, four UUP MPs were shaping up as a possible field to succeed Mr. Molyneux.

Yeltsin says Russia still backs Chechen peace talks

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, whose Security Council will meet Wednesday to review Moscow's policy in rebel Chechnya, said Tuesday that Moscow was still committed to peace talks with separatist rebels.

"Our position remains unchanged," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters before meeting political analysts in his Kremlin office.

"We favour a peaceful settlement on the basis of legality and the constitution. This is why we are holding talks in (the Chechen capital) Grozny."

Mr. Yeltsin has expressed worries about the deadlock in peace talks launched in June to end the eight-month conflict which has killed

thousands of people.

Broader Russian-Chechen talks have stalled over the future status of Chechnya. The rebels want Moscow to recognise their independence, unilaterally proclaimed in 1991, while the Kremlin insists that Chechnya must remain part of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin named Oleg Lobov, secretary of his policy-making Security Council, as his personal representative in Chechnya with power to coordinate Moscow's activities in the region. The council could lay down guidelines for Russian policy that in the past has seemed hesitant and contradictory.

Mr. Lobov, who visited Chechnya Monday, urged a

faster disarmament of the rebels, agreed as part of a military deal last month. The deal also included a truce and partial withdrawal of Russian troops, sent in last December.

But Mr. Lobov ruled out any concessions on Chechnya's status.

After signing the military deal the rebels surrendered several hundred weapons — a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands Moscow thinks they own. Russian officials suspect the rebels of trying to bypass the disarmament deal.

The rebels in turn accuse Russia of trying to change the terms of the military deal. They have made clear that if fighting restarts they would strike in Russia itself

rather than confront Russian troops in Chechnya.

Moscow is taking the rebel threats seriously, especially after a commando-style raid by some 200 Chechen fighters on the southern Russian town of Budennovsk in June. More than 120 people were killed and hundreds were held hostage for six days.

Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who met Tuesday, decided to summon the leaders of Russia's north Caucasus regions bordering Chechnya to discuss additional security measures in the area.

Mr. Yeltsin's press office, which announced the decision, did not say when the meeting would take place.

Bhutto: India may take 'foolish action'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Tuesday Pakistan feared the Indian government might seek to raise tensions between the two countries in the run-up to parliamentary elections due next year.

She said she wished India had a strong, statesmanlike leader with the courage to settle the Kashmir dispute and promote reconciliation with Pakistan.

She told foreign correspondents India must be restrained from missile production that she said threatened Pakistan and other countries in the region.

Ms. Bhutto said Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's government was under pressure because of a perception at home that it had failed to end a revolt against Indian rule in Kashmir.

"So we are passing through a period which is rather dangerous because with Indian elections coming up, there will be greater domestic political pressure on the government to win votes, and the government may in that pressure take a foolish action," she said.

She said she hoped "nothing happens that can escalate the tensions" between the two countries, which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Ms. Bhutto said Islamabad believed the little-known Al Faran group, which killed a kidnapped Western tourist in Kashmir earlier this month and is holding four others hostage, was an Indian "counter-intelligence outfit" aiming to harm the Kashmiri cause and defame Pakistan.

Ms. Bhutto called Al Faran a "despicable group"

that she said was helping India in its drive to crush the Kashmiri people.

She said the kidnapping had been aimed to put pressure on Pakistan at a time when the U.S. Congress was considering easing an economic and arms aid embargo on Pakistan.

"Now we foresee that either the hostages will be rescued or the militants will be killed just when Pakistan's case goes to Congress," she added.

Ms. Bhutto said she had no confirmation of a report by two visiting U.S. Senators in Islamabad Monday that Indian leaders were willing to take part in Pakistan-proposed five-nation talks on baling the spread of nuclear weapons in South Asia.

India has denied the report.

Ms. Bhutto said although India's missile-development programme was Pakistan-specific, it had also brought other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Yemen "under the shadow of the Indian nuclear warheads".

Ms. Bhutto said it seemed India had no leader strong enough to take an initiative to solve the problem of Kashmir, two-thirds of which is ruled by New Delhi and the rest by Pakistan.

"What we really need to see in India is a statesperson, somebody who will say that 'I am going to rise above narrow political partisan considerations ... And I will keep the commitment that India made before U.N. Security Council'," she said.

She was referring to the long-standing U.N. resolutions that propose a plebiscite to allow the predominantly Muslim Kashmiris to decide whether to join Islamic Pakistan or Hindu-majority India.

India renews contact with Kashmir guerrillas

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian authorities held a fresh round of talks Tuesday with militants holding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir amid hopes the tourists, in their ninth week of captivity, would be released unharmed.

Officials spoke by radio with Al Faran militants who kidnapped the Westerners in isolated Kashmir in early July.

The latest communication came one day after American Donald Hutchings spoke directly to Indian officials, telling them by radio that he was in good health, as were German Dirk Haseri and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells.

That was the first direct contact between the government and the hostages since the men were abducted and fanned hopes Al Faran would eventually agree to free the tourists.

"This is another positive development," a senior official of the government of Jammu and Kashmir state said. "We are happy that despite all the deadlines and threats against them, we were able to talk to a hostage and prolong the negotiations."

The government contacted the abductors again Tuesday, a state government spokesman said. "We are talking," he said. "We hope that things move quickly, but it is a long, drawn-out process and one has to show patience."

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christoan Ostroe, was found beheaded in a remote region of Kashmir on Aug. 13.

Near his body was a note in which Al Faran threatened to kill the others unless the government released 15 jailed separatists within two days.

That deadline, like two earlier ones, passed without any apparent harm being done to the hostages as Indian negotiators stepped up efforts to reach a peaceful end to the ordeal, which entered its ninth week Tuesday.

The government had requested proof that the four men were unharmed in spite of death threats. A tape recording and photographs released last week indicated the men were in good health, but they dated from Aug. 13, two days before yet another death threat.

In Monday's radio conversation, Hutchings told authorities he and the other hostages were in good health.

Officials seeking proof the others were alive and well asked Hutchings personal questions about them which only they could answer.

Officials would not say if

they expected the responses in writing, on a tape recording or over radio.

Despite the upbeat mood in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, authorities said they did not necessarily expect an early resolution to the crisis.

"These things take time," one official said. "We have to have a lot of patience and prolong the negotiations."

India has rejected a swap of jailed militants for the hostages, saying it would only encourage more abductions in Kashmir, where police and hospitals say more than 20,000 people have died in a five-year separatist revolt.

But it has said a possible agreement could involve the release of the hostages and jailed separatists who might have been freed under a regular review of their prison status.

Few Rwanda refugees volunteer to return home

GOMA, Zaire (R) — U.N. workers struggled Tuesday to persuade frightened Rwandan refugees to volunteer to return home before Zaire resumes throwing them out if U.N.-Zaire talks in Geneva fail.

Only six refugees out of 150,000 in Mugunga camp near the border town of Goma agreed Tuesday morning to board trucks back to Rwanda under a faltering U.N. voluntary repatriation programme.

U.N. trucks set out for camps in the Bukavu region to the south of Goma and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff said they were returning to tell the Rwandans time was limited and they must decide in case forced expulsions resumed.

"Zairean army officers have already visited some camps to see which is next. It is obvious they have made up their minds to kick these refugees out," said a senior aid agency official.

He said Zairean authorities had privately made it clear deportations would resume if talks in Geneva Tuesday

between UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata and Zaire's Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo failed.

Mr. Kengo declined to comment to reporters as he arrived at UNHCR's headquarters in Geneva before the meeting started.

Ms. Ogata was expected to leave Geneva Wednesday after the talks for the Rwandan capital of Kigali, Burundi and Tanzania.

Diplomats said her negotiations about the one million Rwandan refugees in Zaire were unlikely to be a success for UNHCR with Zaire insisting on resuming forced expulsions that dumped 15,000 refugees back in Rwanda in four days last week.

Many of the Hutu refugees fear reprisals for last year's genocide in which Hutu soldiers and militias, abetted by civilians, killed up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

UNHCR's negotiating position has grown weaker in five days of voluntary repatriations which sent home fewer than 350 refugees since Zaire agreed

to suspend expulsions Thursday.

U.N. officials said Tuesday six refugees, who fled their camps to escape the Zairean sweep, died in hills near the border town of Uvira because of malnutrition. Refugees who left the camps have even been selling the clothes they wear for food.

Diplomats said UNHCR was under pressure from donor countries to agree to some sort of compromise with Zaire at the Geneva talks to lead to a substantial cut in the number of refugees.

But UNHCR rules out any role in forced repatriations, which could be violent and create bottlenecks in Rwanda where prisons are crammed with more than 50,000 Hutus accused of involvement in last year's genocide.

The U.N. voluntary repatriation programme received new blows Monday with Rwanda's Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, a Hutu moderate, announcing his resignation while the government said he was

sacked while mine and grenade blasts hit Goma.

Mr. Twagiramungu said in a letter he stepped down in anger over reports of killings by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) guerrillas who took power after the genocide, diplomats said.

The prime minister was the most prominent Hutu in Rwanda's coalition government and his presence was seen as key to RPA efforts to help neutralise the exiled Hutu opposition.

"This is terrible news," Joel Bourroue, UNHCR chief in Goma, told Reuters. "It is going to create more instability."

"The Tutsi leadership has now consolidated power and thrown out Twagiramungu," said a Rwandan refugee in Bukavu, Zaire. "If they cannot work with a sensible man like that, I don't know how they could accommodate some of us who they call killers."

On Monday an anti-tank mine exploded beneath a U.N. truck loaded to the relief agency Care and a grenade exploded in a Goma market.

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Strange outbursts

AT A TIME when the Arab World most needed to close ranks and work hand in hand on a formula for burying the negative consequences of the Gulf crisis and war, government-controlled newspapers in Cairo sprang a surprise: They initiated an attack against Jordan's policy on Iraq, less than a day after Foreign Minister Amr Musa ended his visit to Amman.

We cannot imagine for a moment that the torrent of attacks on His Majesty King Hussein personally, and on Jordanian policies generally, happened without a direct order from the highest echelons of power in the Egyptian government. We had understood Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's earlier remarks about the defection of Iraqi General Hussein Kamel to Jordan to mean a sort of complaint against being kept in the dark over developments that followed the defection. But now we admit that the Egyptian newspapers' concerted attacks after Mr. Musa's visit have been a puzzle to us.

Jordan in its attempt to serve its own interests and those of the Arab Nation has never sought to trespass on the rights and prerogatives of Egypt or any other Arab country. At the height of the Gulf crisis it was Jordan, not Egypt, that advocated an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis that resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Egypt in an apparent effort to outbid other Arab countries in currying favour with the Americans and their allies, however, put all its weight on the side of foreign intervention.

Now that Jordan wants to play its rightful role in the region, through cooperation with other Arab states and the world community, it will not accept undue interference by others. Jordan realises very well what role it can play and what role it cannot. Furthermore, Jordan has gained credibility with virtually all the countries near and far. And at the same time Jordan is not seeking to replace Egypt in whatever role it aspires to assume. Jordan has always sought good relations with Egypt even when Cairo was ostracised by most of the Arab countries.

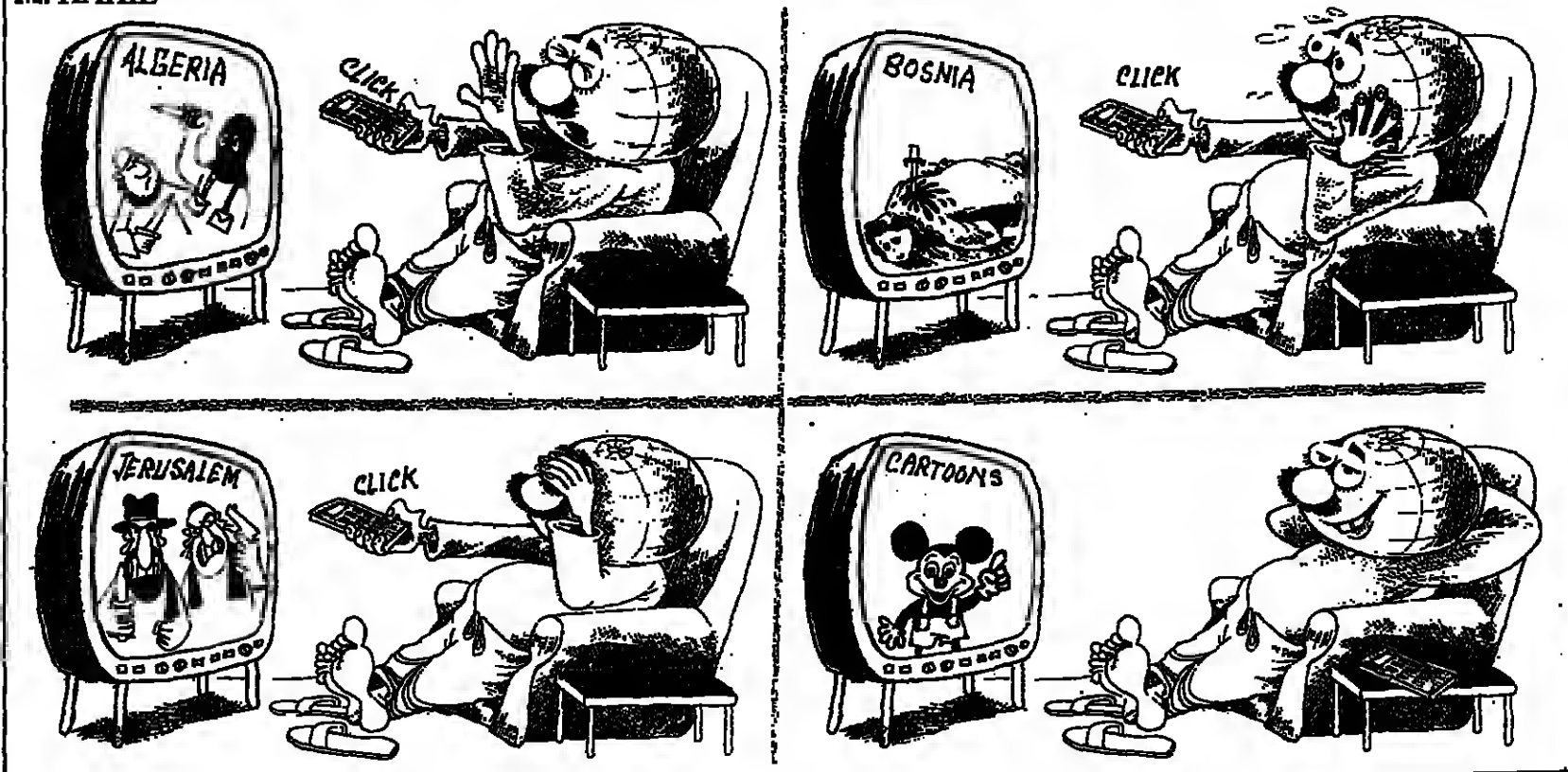
If Egypt does not like the fact that Amman has become the focus of political activity related to the situation in Iraq then it should not blame the Kingdom for being marginalised. This country is not trying to undermine Egypt's weight, just as much as we do not want Egypt to undercut our efforts to help the nation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday criticised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for instructing his semi-official newspapers, like Al Ahram and Al Jumhuri, to attack His Majesty King Hussein. The Egyptian president seems to be obsessed with the idea that he, among all the Arab leaders in the area, is the only leader that can play a key role in the destiny of the Middle East, said Tareq Masarweh. Mr. Mubarak has ordered the Egyptian dailies to attack the Kingdom five years ago for not supporting the American-led invasion of the Iraq and now he is angry at Jordan for supporting the United States in its stand towards Iraq, said the writer, who also said that it was Egypt, which opened the gate for the American-led coalition to attack Iraq after the Gulf crisis. Noting that Cairo's attack on Jordan came on the heels of the Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Jordan, the writer said that Mr. Mubarak had expected a great deal of information from Jordan, which he could use in the course of highlighting Cairo's role in any political development in the region but has been disappointed. He said Mr. Mubarak was angry at Jordan and the United States for ignoring Egypt in the process of preparing for the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, at the Palestinians for keeping Cairo in the dark over the Oslo deal, and at Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for dealing directly with Washington. King Hussein does not bear a grudge against anyone. But, said the writer, only those full of malice unleash media campaigns against others.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dostour said that the Arab World should wake up to the facts about the current situation in the Middle East, noting that Arab states are besieged by the Americans and their Israeli allies. The problems facing the Palestinians, the Iraqis, the Libyans, the Lebanese and the Syrians are all a direct result of the American military aggression and siege of the region, said Taher Al Adwan. One look at the map reveals that the Americans are besieging us with their fleets in the Gulf, in the Red Sea and Adaba and from the West on the shores of Palestine and through the air bases in Turkey and Kuwait. Furthermore, he said, thousands of American troops stage military exercises in Jordan and Kuwait, preparing for war on the Arabs and are assisted in this campaign by their Israeli strategic allies in the region. All the problems, facing the Arabs in the Golan, southern Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine are caused by the American military presence, he said.

M. KAHIL



By Ayman Al Safadi

A giant with a blurred vision

Egypt is at it once again — and not many are surprised.

The campaign that the Egyptian regime has been launching against Jordan in the wake of the defection of a senior Iraqi official to the Kingdom this month is a customary symptom of the paranoia that has come to define a large segment of Egypt's body politic.

The nervous war of words that the government-controlled Egyptian press is unleashing on Jordan is not simply a reaction to a Jordanian foreign policy decision with which Cairo does not agree. It is, rather, the product of a political culture trapped in the emptiness of the loss of an imaginary weight on the Arab and international arenas.

Cairo's reaction is clearly out of proportion to the

Kingdom's decision to grant asylum to Gen. Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, Iraq's former minister of industries and President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law. But it is the least that can be expected from a regime that sees itself as a regional giant whose prestige and authority is eroding.

By virtue of its size, history and strong ties with the United States, Egypt believes that all roads to the Middle East should pass through Cairo. If any country opts for a different road, Cairo gets irritated. This irritation translates into unjustified paranoid outbursts of anger whose major victim is Egypt's credibility and reputation in the region. This much was witnessed

when the Palestine Liberation Organisation went the Oslo, and not the Cairo, way to sign its declaration of principles with Israel. The criticism that Cairo levelled at Jordan when it signed the peace treaty with Israel bewildered many an observer. Over a decade before the Kingdom and the PLO reached peace agreements with Israel, the Israeli flag was flying high in Cairo.

Instead of welcoming the broadening of the peace that Cairo initiated, the Egyptian regime blasted it. This attitude is surprising only to those who are not familiar with the essence of Egypt's current political culture: those who are know that the Egyptian regime got angry

because it was not asked for permission before the deals were signed. Egypt felt that its self-designated role as the leader of the Middle East was not respected. The unconfident giant could not swallow the perceived marginalisation.

This is exactly why the Egyptian government is unhappy with Jordan these days. Cairo believes that Jordan's decision to host the Iraqi defector has given the Kingdom a new and important regional role. It was with Jordan and not with Cairo that Western and Arab politicians were discussing the latest developments. The Egyptian government became upset, uneasy that Jordan was assuming a role it believes Cairo should

play. And the war of words began.

But this war will not get Cairo anywhere. Nobody can deny the important role that Egypt can play in the region. The potential of Cairo to assume a leading position in the region is real. But this potential would be wasted should President Hosni Mubarak press the political immaturity which his regime has demonstrated lately.

The Egyptian president can do himself, his country and the region a great deal of good by breaking free from the illusions that the officials in Cairo are harbouring at the present.

The writer is editorial page editor at the Jordan Times.

Let's not close a window with a view

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

PARLIAMENT is presently debating a new investment law which is aimed at attracting foreign investors to Jordan. The purpose of the law is to make Jordan an investment friendly place while encouraging domestic investors to invest at home, and setting up the climate for Jordan to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The following are comments on the draft law.

1. Articles 3, 4 and 7 of the draft law define the productive sectors that benefit from corporate tax exemptions and divide the Kingdom into investment regions. Basically all sectors benefit explicitly from these exemptions except for the telecommunications sector, which is covered by its own law. This very important sector should also be covered in the investment law in order to encourage inward investment. Not only is the telecommunications sector an important source of revenue to the country, but it is also important for the development of other sectors.

I assume that the regional divisions of the law are geographic (regions are not identified in the law), and the amount or percentage of the exemption to be received by industries varies from region to region. Region A, which is the investment favourite, receives a 25 per cent exemption from income and social security taxes. Region B receives 50 per cent in exemptions and region C receives 75 per cent in exemptions.

This discrimination in tax incentives is quite understandable and the development goals behind it are reasonable. However, this is only one step in the right direction, and not more, because:

While the law has provisions for attracting investors to regions A, B, and C, these provisions remain inadequate and will not achieve miracles because investors in these areas are faced with a lack of infrastructure that translates to a higher cost of doing business. If this cost greatly outweighs the gain from the exemptions, especially in the very first years when production and profits are low, there will be no development in the neglected

areas of Jordan. Therefore, if we truly aspire to attract investors to these regions we should also direct our infrastructure expenditures accordingly. For example, the hardship of commuting from Amman to Karak via a convoluted road from Amman to Irbid is one reason why the former is less developed than the latter. The twenty miles or so from Qatranah to Karak have claimed many lives, ruined many a good car and prevented many investments, big and small, from entering the Karak region. In other words, a single law simply does not cut it for the underdeveloped south. However, a comprehensive development plan would do wonders, especially if it were to focus on neglected long-term agendas instead of flashy short-term monuments that drain resources and benefit only the few. The present transportation system has made a mess of the regional distribution in the country and imposed extreme pressures on the capital Amman. A railway system that connects the south with the north will reduce pressure on the demand for services in Amman and cause land prices in Amman to fall from their exorbitant present levels. Consequently, the prices of land located outside Amman will increase. As more people opt to stay in Irbid or Karak instead of moving to the capital, where congestion and pollution are heaviest, their incomes, savings and investment will address their own regional needs instead of those of Amman. Furthermore, to encourage the flow of labour to these areas from other areas of Jordan, labourers who work in tax-exempted projects must also receive some tax exemptions themselves to compensate for the hardship and to encourage the dispersion of skills to the remote underdeveloped regions of Jordan. Thus, instead of only sending second-raters to these regions, the best may compete to reap these benefits.

The law should discriminate in favour of manufacturing industries because it is they, and not tourism, that bring the hope of development for Jordan. In other words, hotels can get custom duty exemptions on their furniture and materials renewals every seven years while the industrial

sector only gets the basic exemptions. Hence, the law is inadvertently biased towards tourism and services. This lack of foresight as to what best develops Jordan and the insensitivity of the authors of the law to the industrial sector can over-encourage investments in tourism by diverting investment funds from manufacturing. I, among many economists, believe that investments in manufacturing lead to faster and greater development of the economy. Give manufacturing and information industries more breaks than other industries or at least give all sectors equal treatment under the investment law.

2. Article 13 creates an independent organisation whose purpose is to encourage the creation of an investment friendly climate in Jordan. This organisation is the Investment Encouragement Corporation, which operates independently from the government in terms of financial and legal affairs. One of its duties is to decrease the amount of red tape that has plagued our bureaucratic climate. This is a great corporation and upon visiting it I was especially impressed with the integrity of all the employees in it.

3. Article 14C creates an investment window which takes over the licensing of investment projects for investors and obtains for them the various official stamps of approval in accordance with the general laws and by laws of Jordan. This is an excellent and especially wonderful idea.

It saves investors' time and money from being wasted in the pursuit of endless forms among the randomly scattered buildings of various government corporations. This saving can be better spent on the production of goods and services in Jordan to create greater multipliers and a larger GDP.

view, let's not lose it.

4. Article 24 allows non-Jordanian investors to fully own and operate their investments in Jordan according to a forthcoming by-law. Also, there is to be no discrimination against foreign investors unless where specified in the by-law and the investor has full freedom in the hiring of personnel. Furthermore, by allowing foreign investors such freedom and equitable treatment we are encouraging our domestic labour to the management to meet the challenge and improve, which is the only way to develop. Protectionism helps the weak become weaker and if Jordan is to become strong in terms of productive and managerial skills, then learning by doing is the way. Article 24 brings Jordan closer to the WTO requirements which as a free-market, free-trade economist I am totally for.

5. Article 25 forbids the government to confiscate property unless it is in the public interest. While the article does not say anything about domestic investors, foreign investors receive fair compensation in convertible currency. This article assures foreign investors of stability and reduces the perceived and actual risk to foreigners who invest in Jordan.

6. Articles 30 and 31 allow foreign investors and employees to withdraw their funds and earnings from Jordan at will. This is a fair condition. People around the world should be allowed to dispose of their property in any way they see fit. If Jordan wants investors to spend their profits here rather than at home, then give them the incentive to do so. Besides, countries that turn to piracy lose the trust of the world and bring destruction upon their long-term growth prospects. Again, Jordan is on the right track here.

7. Article 32 and 33 discuss the procedures for settling disputes for both Arabic and non-Arabic investors in Jordan. Article 34 allows investors to borrow against their assets. Overall the draft law is transparent and fair to all investors. The law recognises copy, patent, and intellectual property rights which I am sure is one way to assure quality improvement in Jordan. With the inclusion of the above mentioned improvements, I do think this law, when passed, will benefit Jordan.

LETTERS

2 points of order

To the Editor:

1. THE VERY idea of have public address systems at any airport is to help passengers. But when the announcements are made, as it is done at Queen Alia International Airport these days, without any clarity, no one could understand anything, whether the announcer is calling a flight to London or to Rome (or any other place for that matter). It is time someone did something about this situation.

2. We do have enough traffic jams in Jabal Amman these days that we can do without maintenance teams blocking off one lane within the main tunnel connecting the Ministry of Interior Circle with the Third Circle at mid-morning peak hours to "clean" the fluorescent lamps. Can't such work be done at night, without adding to the troubles of the thousands of motorists who use the tunnel at peak hours?

A citizen

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

It Occurred To Me....

By Ali Kassay

One in the eye for Adam Smith

Not so long ago, in the course of a general conversation with a senior executive in a leading Jordanian enterprise, I asked him who was in charge of public relations in his corporation. After a brief hesitation, he explained to me that marketing was entrusted to a Mr. So and so. When I reminded him that my question concerned the PR manager, and added that listing the identities and positions of other members of the senior staff, though interesting, would not be an adequate reply, my friend scratched his head, contemplated the situation awhile, and confessed that he was not sure there was one.

Fortunately, my question was of purely academic interest. Had I needed the services of the company's public relations officer I might have come unstuck, as does everyone in Jordan who needs the services of an institution, public or private, unless he happens to have a personal friend or relation among the top brass of that institution.

Upon reflection, however, the company in question has no business employing a public relations officer. To be sure, it deals with hundreds of clients on a daily basis. Therefore, one would have imagined that it would have a vested interest in attracting clients and keeping them happy by offering them services superior to those of the competition. One would assume further that such a business would be very keen to inform the clients of the services offered to them, and to deal with any complaints that may arise, hence the need for a public relations department. In making these assumptions one would be refreshingly optimistic.

Most goods and services in the country are offered either by monopolies, public or private, or by cartels. Private monopolies secure their control over the business either by an administrative decision, the sagacity of which is never explained, or by exhaustive conditions imposed on any who contemplate entry into the market, which are guaranteed to chase away anyone with more than room-temperature IQ. Naturally, both types of institutions guard their monopolies jealously, perhaps because it gives their employees the opportunity to feel self-righteous for having so much work to complain about rather than do. As for cartels, they have long since discovered that they do not need to compete among themselves. As if by common accord, they maintain the lowest level of performance that gives faintest semblance of an enterprise, and leave it at that.

So what about competition? What about the invisible hand which, according to Adam Smith, regulates the market? What about the free market which, according to all official discourses, Jordan is encouraging in its bid to restructure and revitalise its economy? Well, it appears that the term free market is understood to mean choosing someone and letting him feel free to do with the market as he fancies. Put that in your pipe, Mr. Smith, and smoke it.

New Mubara if given

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calling for an urgent of Parliament. But mand the opening of of university education. A question signed deputies either this bid for convincing a session to discuss "since the right to a basic right. Lawmakers conte universities could ac the number they present, adding th tries much poorer can provide all the graduates with u sens. For a solution of, other educat for allowing study pondance at ever programmes espec studying abroad is pensive. But others s thought the denial students the right education was del They charged th was part of a polic reducing the numb push them into labour to fill th

TODAY AT

Mubarak pledges prosecution if given proof of PoW killings

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Tuesday that Egypt was prepared to investigate charges that Egyptian soldiers killed Israeli prisoners of war (PoWs).

"If someone provides us with evidence, we will investigate. If there is a need to prosecute, we shall punish those responsible," Mr. Mubarak told the Israeli newspaper Maariv.

Mr. Mubarak spoke to Maariv at his summer residence in Alexandria on Monday, just hours before Israeli attorney general, Michael Ben-Yair, announced that Israeli law did not permit the prosecution of Israeli veterans accused of killing Egyptian prisoners in the 1956 and 1967 Middle East wars.

Israel's criminal laws do not allow murder charges to be filed more than 20 years after the alleged crime was committed, Mr. Ben-Yair said. Israel has no war crimes law.

Mr. Mubarak said the disclosures in Israel that Israeli soldiers had killed Egyptian PoWs in the 1956 and 1967 wars threatened to cause problems in the relations between the two countries, and that he did not want this.

He called on the Israeli government to launch an inquiry in order to end the outcry in Egypt.

"Why are you waiting there in Israel? We wish to

save the situation. We do not want problems between us," Mr. Mubarak told Maariv.

Mr. Mubarak accused the Egyptian press of inflaming the feelings of the public. The press has inflated the matter and now four articles are written about it every day. There are attacks on me and people are asking, 'why we are silent?'

He promised that Egypt would continue to allow searches for the bodies of Israeli soldiers missing since the 1973 war. "We have not stopped, nor will we stop, this humanitarian activity."

The killings of prisoners became an issue when, after decades of censorship, reports of wartime atrocities surfaced in Israel earlier this month.

A retired Israeli general admitted that in 1956 he shot and killed 49 Egyptian soldiers because he did not have enough men to guard them. Several veterans then came forward with accounts of POW killings by Israeli soldiers.

Historians said such acts occurred in all of the Arab-Israeli wars, although the scope of the killings remains unclear.

Israeli historians have since said that there were also reciprocal incidents in which Egyptian soldiers killed hundreds of Israeli prisoners.

"Egypt is waiting for a fair and honest investigation in

the case of the massacre of Egyptian prisoners of war by Israelis during the 1956 and 1967 wars so it can bring to account those responsible for these massacres," Mr. Mubarak's adviser Osama Al Baz, told a youth rally in Alexandria.

"The Israeli government has not carried out an investigation about this yet," he said.

Israeli military historian Aryeh Yitzhaki said he believed 1,000 Egyptians were killed by Israeli soldiers in the 1967 Mideast war after they had already surrendered. Mr. Yitzhaki said there were also reciprocal incidents in which Egyptian soldiers killed Israeli prisoners.

Egyptian newspapers have been much more outspoken than the government, carrying reports on killings of Egyptian prisoners. Human rights groups and opposition parties also joined the fray.

"War crimes are covered by international agreements and they don't just fall off with time," said Hisham Mubarak, head of the private Centre for Human Rights and Legal Aid. "The Israeli judge's opinion will not close the door in this case."

Opposition groups have called for the expulsion of Israel's ambassador to Egypt and a ban on visits by the Israeli prime minister. The two countries made peace in 1979.

Egypt deescalates war of words over Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

that they did not want ties with Egypt to be strained. They said they detected an unease in Egypt over the high profile role that Jordan assumed in the region after signing peace with Israel and the international attention on Amman following the recent defection by Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's former minister of industry and a son-in-law of Saddam Hussein.

The Al Ra'i correspondent quoted the Egyptian political source as saying that reports about "conflicting views" between the two governments were "baseless."

"The difference in viewpoints on certain subjects does not imply that there is a political crisis between Amman and Cairo," (and) coordination between them is continuing," the source was quoted as saying.

The source dissociated the Cairo government from the attacks against Jordan appearing in the government-owned as well as state-controlled press. "The views expressed by such writers on developments in Iraq are personal views and analyses, which reflect the opinion of the writers and do not represent an official government position," asserted the source.

The source was also quoted as dismissing "reports circulated by some political circles" that a crisis was imminent in Jordanian-Egyptian relations, "which are based on firm principles."

"Both countries shoulder the same responsibility towards the region, the current Arab situation, and higher Arab interests," said the source, also noting efforts made by the leaderships of Jordan and Egypt to clear the Arab atmosphere, ensure regional stability and advance the Middle East peace process.

and explaining the viewpoints of each other towards the developments in Iraq as well as preparations for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Amman in October, according to the source.

Noting that Egypt had also set up a ministerial committee to expand economic cooperation, the source told the Al Ra'i correspondent that "both Jordan and Egypt share the view that economic cooperation is contingent on a just and lasting peace and stability to the region and regional economic cooperation aims at paving the ground for a just and lasting peace."

The pointed comments obviously reflected an Egyptian desire not to let the war of words get out of hand as it did in the wake of the differing positions adopted by Jordan and Egypt on how to end the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

The source's comment on the MENA summit and economic cooperation was particularly interesting since it signalled a shift from the criticism levelled by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak against the summit's agenda last month, leaving open the possibility that he might not attend the conference.

Arab and foreign observers noted that throughout recent history the media in Arab countries — most of them

close to the regime — have always resorted to launching attacks against other Arab countries whenever it suited their interests.

"It has been very unfortunate that the press is being used to serve political interests at the whims and fancies of the state," the editor of Egypt's respected Rose Al Youssef magazine said in an interview shortly after the Gulf crisis. He was referring to continued attacks against Jordan in the Egyptian media even after the end of the war over Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Cairo-based Arab League, headed by Esmat Abdul Meguid, a former Egyptian foreign minister, said Iraq had not lodged any protest or complaint against Jordan that the Kingdom was interfering in internal Iraqi affairs.

An Arab League source quoted by Al Ra'i rejected as baseless a report in a Jordanian newspaper that Baghdad had filed such a complaint to the league.

The source, who was also not identified, said no such item was on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers and that an Arab country had asked the league's secretary to include any new items in the agenda.

Several PLO executives live in Jordan. Among them are independent Abdullah Hourani, Abdul Rahim Malhouh of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Tayseer Khadeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine — all of them avowed critics of the Israel-PLO self-rule agreement signed in September 1993.

Mahmoud Darwish, a renowned Palestinian poet and a member of the PLO Executive Committee, was also believed to be in Jordan on Tuesday.

"The meetings were not designed at arriving at any decisions, but were a review of the latest developments in the Israel-PLO negotiations as well as events in the region that have an impact on the Palestinian question," said the source.

That appeared to be a reference to the recent defection to Jordan of a high-ranking Iraqi official.

Mr. Kaddoumi is a frequent visitor to Iraq, also a strong critic of the Israel-PLO agreements. It was not immediately clear how Mr. Kaddoumi viewed the defection or whether he had sought a meeting with the defector, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, who has been given asylum in Jordan.

Omar Khatib, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, said Mr. Kaddoumi had no "official engagements" on Tuesday and was scheduled to leave for Damascus, Syria, on Wednesday.

An expected meeting with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti had not materialised until late Tuesday "because the foreign minister is extremely busy," Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times. He said there was a possibility that the meeting would take place before Mr. Kaddoumi's departure.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who continues to be based in Tunis despite the move to Gaza in July 1994 by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to launch self-rule in parts of the Palestinian territories, arrived here late Monday.

The head of the PLO's political department, effectively the foreign minister of the Palestinians, is an outspoken critic of the self-rule accord. Mr. Kaddoumi and eight other PLO executives stayed away from an Executive Committee meeting in Tunis last month that endorsed a partial agreement that Mr. Arafat worked out with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Israeli redeployment in the West Bank.

On the day the meeting was to start, Mr. Kaddoumi held a press conference in Amman and called for an immediate suspension of all Palestinian negotiations with Israel and demanded a "thorough and comprehensive assessment" of what the Palestinians had gained or lost so far in the negotiations.

In Damascus, Mr. Kaddoumi is expected to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa as well as representatives of a 10-faction Palestinian alliance which has vowed to wreck the Israel-PLO peace moves.

PKK says it attacked Iraqi Kurds to lure Turks into northern Iraq

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Kurdish militants fighting for a homeland in southeastern Turkey attacked rival Kurds in northern Iraq last weekend in a bid to lure the Turkish army across the border, the militants' leader was quoted Tuesday as saying.

Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), said his guerrillas are also trying to wreck a U.S.-sponsored truce reached earlier this month between the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

"We want to drag them (the Turkish forces) into northern Iraq in order to destroy them there," Mr. Ocalan said in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper.

The KDP, led by Masoud Barzani, reported Sunday that PKK fighters attacked its bases in the Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq, causing "considerable casualties." The KDP said the attacks were contained after severe fighting.

This year, the Turkish army has launched a series of incursions into northern Iraq aimed at PKK bases there,

including a major offensive in July involving around 30,000 troops.

Ankara has since secured a deal with the KDP and PUK to keep PKK men out of the area.

Mr. Ocalan called on the KDP and the PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, to "rip up" a security deal with Ankara under which the two Iraqi Kurdish groups guarantee Turkey's southern border by keeping PKK guerrillas out of northern Iraq.

Mr. Ocalan's rebels have been waging their separatist campaign since 1984. More than 16,000 people have been killed in the struggle.

An Iraqi umbrella group on Monday condemned the PKK for attacking Iraqi Kurdish positions and said the rebels were trying to torpedo the peace deal between the KDP and PUK.

"It is clear that these attacks are an attempt to threaten the Drogda peace agreement between the KDP and PUK," said the Iraqi National Congress (INC) in a statement from London.

Earlier this month, the KDP and PUK met in Ireland for U.S.-sponsored talks aimed at ending a year of

bloody clashes.

The rival groups agreed to a temporary ceasefire and are expected to meet again to discuss resolving two key issues — control of the main city of Erbil and revenues from traffic across the Iraqi-Turkish border.

The PKK has bases in northern Iraq and it must cross KDP territory to enter Turkey. The two groups have often been at odds, and the KDP has been trying to work out a deal whereby Turkey will fund rebuilding border villages in exchange for the KDP patrolling the area and blocking the PKK.

"The INC seeks an end to the use of Iraqi territory as a base from which military activities against Iraq's neighbours are carried out," the INC said.

The Iraqi Kurds are protected from Baghdad by a Western allied force based in southern Turkey since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Turkey, arguing the PKK is benefiting from the power vacuum in northern Iraq exacerbated by fighting between the two Iraqi Kurdish groups, has encouraged the rivals to end their clashes.

Campaign started with King's speech to the nation

(Continued from page 1)

Hussein's support for him have obviously placed Jordan at the centre of efforts to shape the future of Iraq, especially after the general announced during a press conference at the Royal Court that he plans to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who initially distanced himself from the whole affair, broke his silence in remarks to the press after King Hussein made his nationwide speech on Wednesday.

"I have heard King Hussein's speech, and it was a brave speech, but what is the motive behind it?" asked President Mubarak stressing that "(he) still (does) not know... and will not know

these intentions until (he) meets with King Hussein... when the circumstances allow for (a meeting)."

Informed sources say that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa rushed to Jordan to be briefed on Jordan's plans and how it will deal with the developments in Iraq, but that "not much was revealed" by Jordan, thus escalating the sense of frustration of the Egyptian leadership.

Mr. Musa, in remarks to the press during his brief visit here, stressed the necessity of coordination and continued dialogue between the two countries at this important time.

Analysts believe that President Mubarak's offer to grant President Saddam asylum and his comments rejecting interference in other state's

internal affairs only manifest how far the Egyptian leader has gone to regain the role he perceived to have lost after the defection.

In explaining the degree of the president's alienation officials sight as evidence the U.S.'s new indifferent attitude towards Egypt, even after the latter joined the U.S.-led coalition that evicted the Iraqi army from Kuwait in February 1991. Egypt was rewarded financially, but not politically, they say.

In its quest for political leadership in the region to counter a possible Israeli dominance, Egypt this year fought strongly against excluding Israel from signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But its battle was not met with enthusiasm from other parties, leading to more isolation of Egypt, says an analyst.

Furthermore, Egypt cannot compete with Israel in being a power in a new regional order which is based on economic considerations rather than ideological ones.

Jordanian politicians say that out of all countries, Egypt should be the last to talk about pan-Arabism and non-interference in other affairs when they were "so eager to isolate Iraq during the Gulf crisis," a well-placed politician said.

"Who was the first to call for ousting Saddam during the Gulf war and fought against Iraq?" asked the politician.

"I wonder why the (Egyptian) president gets angry and attacks us when we do not

support an American position, as happened during the Gulf war, and then gets angry if we do contemplate supporting the U.S.," said Mr. Masarweh in his column.

He went on to say that President Mubarak was the one who gave Arabs the legitimacy for U.S. forces to fight another Arab country.

While Jordanian-Egyptian relations have recently witnessed considerable improvement that followed a period of strain caused by the different stances the two countries assumed during the Gulf crisis, the two countries' ties remained generally cool.

Nevertheless, politicians say that past tensions between Amman and Cairo should not account for Egypt's pre-set campaign against the Kingdom's position vis-a-vis Iraq, especially when King Hussein, "played a major role in rehabilitating Egypt and getting it back to the Arab arena after Camp David," said an analyst.

Also, officials say that the King, in his speech last week, reiterated his support for the Iraqi people and his concern for their well-being and did not signal a shift of policy in Jordanian-Iraqi relations that explains Egypt's extreme reaction. "This has been the King's policy since day one of the Gulf crisis," said one official.

"The King did not condemn Saddam in person. All he did was reinforce his call for democracy in Iraq to fulfill his prime objective, which is lifting the sanctions against that country," he said.

Pandora's box opened

(Continued from page 12)

calling for an urgent session of Parliament but "we demand the opening of the file of university education."

A petition signed by 40 deputies earlier this week called for convening an urgent session to discuss the issue "since the right to education is a basic right."

Lawmakers contended that universities could accept double the number they admit at present, adding that countries much poorer than Jordan provide all their tertiary graduates with university seats.

For a solution of the problem, other educators called for allowing study by correspondence or evening shift programmes, especially since studying abroad is very expensive.

But others said they thought the denial of many students the right to higher education was deliberate.

They charged the practice was part of a policy aimed at reducing the number of educated persons in order to push them into unskilled labour to fill the market

needs.

"The government finally aims at replacing foreign workers with Jordanians through adopting these means," said one writer who preferred not to be named.

In the radio call-in programme, Dr. Saoud said that it was not possible to accept more than 15,000 students in Jordanian universities.

"Some would be accepted in colleges, others might choose vocational training while a third category might opt to work immediately after leaving school," he said.

Dr. Saoud said that the number of students entitled to royal endowment reached only 1,000 students, and that students from other countries totalled 1,000.

He said that not everybody needed a university degree to progress in society, and criticised what many describe as the obsession with university education to a social complex.

"We have this university certificate complex in our society while employment chances might be available for college graduates," said Dr. Saoud.

'U.N. obliged to end sanctions'

(Continued from page 1)

Gen. Hassan said meanwhile his words against Mr. Ekeus had been aired out of context on Baghdad television as part of a campaign to discredit him.

"I challenged them to air the whole of the meeting because the part that was broadcast has no value unless it is run in context and with all the discussions that took place" in the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), he said.

Gen. Hassan also told AFP that only President Saddam, his father-in-law, was allowed to listen to the tapes of such meetings.

Iraqi state television on Monday aired extracts from an RCC meeting at which Gen. Hassan proposed stirring problems with UNSCOM "to prove that Rolf Ekeus is not an honest man."

Talks on missing Kuwaiti and Iraqi experts will meet again on Wednesday to probe the fate of people missing since Iraq's 1990-91 occupation following several hours of discussions on Tuesday, a Kuwaiti official said.

"We will meet again tomorrow. That is all I can

say," Duaij Al Anzi, spokesman of Kuwait's national committee for the missing and prisoners of war, said by telephone after the talks in a demilitarised zone set up after the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Anzi was one of the Kuwaiti delegates at Tuesday's meeting, the latest in a series of a technical working group of a Geneva-based commission investigating the Gulf war missing issue.

The 32-nation U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, which patrols the 15-kilometre-wide demilitarised strip, provided accommodation and security for the talks, which were chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Kuwait had said that at the meeting it wants to hear Iraq's answers to files prepared by the Gulf state about the cases of 116 people who went missing during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

The 116 are among 600 Kuwaitis and nationals from other countries said by Kuwait to have disappeared during the seven-month occupation and the six-week war that ended it.

Kuwait and the United States say a full accounting for the 600 is one of several

conditions Iraq must meet before the U.N. sanctions can be lifted.

Iraq has said it released all those it captured during the occupation, but has promised to investigate the issue further.

Representatives from Kuwait's main Gulf war allies, the United States, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia, also took part in the meeting, diplomats said. These nations say several dozen of their citizens are missing.

In Vienna, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iraq planned to use fuel from two atomic research reactors in a short route to build a nuclear bomb and the programme was only halted by allied air raids during the Gulf war.

It also said the Iraqis had considered testing the device by deploying it against an enemy.

Professor Maurizio Ziffero of the IAEA said details provided by the Iraqi government during a U.N. trip to Baghdad this month came as a surprise.

"We believed before that the Iraqis were years away from obtaining sufficient weapons-grade uranium," Mr. Ziffero told Reuters in an interview.

Summit plans 'fine-tuned'

(Continued from page 1)

has rendered more favourable the investment environment in the area.

Mr. Schwab brushed aside accusations that the Casablanca summit was merely a media affair that did nothing to improve the economic situation in the region.

"Casablanca crystallised that the peace process is not only a matter of politics but also economics," said Mr. Schwab.

He said that Casablanca confirmed that the Middle East and North Africa are a region, adding that a number of large projects materialised from the summit.

The WEF president said that the Amman summit will help accelerate the process of regional integration.

Mr. Schwab said he hoped that proposed Middle East development bank would be

launched at the summit, adding that importance of the bank lies in the indication that a fresh capital is being committed to the development of the region at favourable conditions.

The WEF official rejected charges that the participation fees for the summit are high, discouraging small-size businesses. He said more participants than Amman can logistically handle have applied to participate.

He said that Jordanian business community has been exempted from paying the contribution fees in return for arranging a number of activities for participants at the summit.

The World Economic Forum is a non-profit organisation financed by membership fees and cost contributions from participants in economic events it organises in different regions of the world.

Kaddoumi meets with colleagues, leaves for Syria today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, met here on Tuesday with several other members of the PLO Executive Committee who, like himself, have been staying away from official meetings in protest against the Israel-PLO self-rule deal.

"It was not a formal meeting, but several PLO Executive Committee members met with Mr. Kaddoumi and discussed the course of the Palestinian cause," said one source. None of the sources who confirmed the meeting would reveal who from among the dissident PLO executives met with Mr. Kaddoumi.

Several PLO executives live in Jordan. Among them are independent Abdullah Hourani, Abdul Rahim Malhouh of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Tayseer Khadeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine — all of them avowed critics of the Israel-PLO self-rule agreement signed in September 1993.

Mahmoud Darwish, a renowned Palestinian poet and a member of the PLO Executive Committee, was also believed to be in Jordan on Tuesday.

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That appeared to be a reference to the recent defection to Jordan of a high-ranking Iraqi official.

Mr. Kaddoumi is a frequent visitor to Iraq, also a strong critic of the Israel-PLO agreements. It was not immediately clear how Mr. Kaddoumi viewed the defection or whether he had sought a meeting with the defector, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, who has been given asylum in Jordan.

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Mr. Kaddoumi, who continues to be based in Tunis despite the move to Gaza in July 1994 by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to launch self-rule in parts of the Palestinian territories, arrived here late Monday.

The head of the PLO's political department, effectively the foreign minister of the Palestinians, is an outspoken critic of the self-rule accord. Mr. Kaddoumi and eight other PLO executives stayed away from an Executive Committee meeting in Tunis last month that endorsed a partial agreement that Mr. Arafat worked out with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Israeli redeployment in the West Bank.

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<p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>JIM CARREY & AMY YAZBEK</p> <p>THE MASK</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA</p> <p>Adel Imam & Yusra</p> <p>Birds of the Darkness</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Adel Imam & Yusra</p> <p>Birds of the Darkness</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 8:00, 8:15, 10:45</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>SPECIALIST</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 5:30, 11</p>	<p>AMMOUN THEATRE</p> <p>MUSA HIAJAZIN</p> <p>"Sumaa"</p> <p>IN</p> <p>Hi Citizen</p> <p>daily at 8:30 pm</p> <p>written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh</p> <p>*****</p>	<p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>TEL: 675571</p> <p>Presents</p> <p>KABARET</p> <p>Abeer Issa</p> <p>Ghassan Mashini</p> <p>with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussaini and Issam Al Hanball</p> <p>The theatre closes on Monday</p> <p>Performances start at 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>presents</p> <p>(Ahlam Tatbee)</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Normalisation</p> <p>Shows start at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman</p>
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IMF turns more cautious about world economy

WASHINGTON (R) — The IMF has cut its forecast for growth in major industrial nations for this year and next as the economies of the United States, Japan and Europe have lagged, international monetary sources said Monday.

The sources, who declined to be identified, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) now expects the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations to record growth of about 2.4 per cent in 1995 and some 2.2 per cent in 1996.

In April, it forecast that the G-7 economies — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — would expand by 3.0 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent next.

The biggest disappointment has been Japan, where a long-stimmering banking crisis and a super-strong yen earlier this year has threatened to drag the economy into recession.

In a draft of its semi-annual World Economic Outlook to be formally released in about a month's time, the IMF forecast that Japan's economy will grow by a mere 0.4 per cent this year and 1.5 per cent next.

But one source said that prediction may have to be updated to reflect the recent steep drop of the Japanese yen, which should help the country's exporters and buttress the economy.

In the draft report, the IMF once again urged Tokyo to cut interest rates to help spur growth, the sources said.

The Bank of Japan's pace-setting discount rate that it charges commercial banks for loans already stands at a record low one per cent. But international monetary sources argued that real interest rates — after factoring out inflation — remain high

in Japan because many prices there are falling.

The IMF has also lowered its forecast for U.S. economic growth this year, to 2.8 per cent from the 3.2 per cent pace expected in April. But it raised its forecast for next year, to 2.1 per cent from 1.9, the sources said.

As previously reported, the fund praised the Federal Reserve for cutting short-term interest rates last month for the first time in nearly three years. But it has counselled caution about further rate reductions as the U.S. economy rebounds from a second quarter slump in

growth.

"No more rate cuts are expected," one source said.

In the draft World Economic Outlook report, the IMF also cut economic growth forecasts for major European nations as the strong German mark and relatively high interest rates there have taken their toll on growth.

It projected growth of 3.1 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent for Germany, 3.0 per cent this year and 2.7 per cent next for both France and Italy, and 2.7 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively, for Britain, sources said.

The IMF has also turned

more cautious about the economic outlook for the developing countries and the nations of the former Soviet Bloc, the sources said.

That partly reflects the economic crisis in Mexico this year, though the IMF expects the nation's economy to resume growing in 1996 after shrinking in 1995.

It also reflects some concern at the fund about a slowdown in the pace of privatisation and other economic reforms in some eastern European countries, including a relaxation of budgetary discipline, one source added.

Japan to boost foreign aid by 7%

TOKYO (R) — Japan, the world's top aid donor, is to set foreign aid spending at a ceiling of 593.2 billion yen (\$6.17 billion) in next year's budget, an increase of seven per cent on last year's allocation, foreign ministry officials said Tuesday.

The ministry's requested increase in Japan's official development assistance (ODA) for fiscal 1996/97 compared with the 553.7 billion yen (\$5.76 billion) ear-

marked for foreign aid spending in the current fiscal year.

Last year, Japan set a ceiling to limit growth in the total ODA budget, which includes foreign aid spending by the foreign ministry as well as other ministries, to 7.7 per cent for the current fiscal year.

But severe fiscal conditions later forced the government to trim real budget growth to four per cent.

OECD says high mark, wages risk to German recovery

BONN (R) — The strength of the mark and high wage deals earlier in the year could choke off recovery in the German economy, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

"The main risk (to our forecast), operative from the second half of this year, is that the double blow of exchange rate appreciation and high wage settlements could undermine competitiveness, profitability and business confidence to a greater degree than expected," the Paris-based think-tank for rich nations said in its annual report on Germany.

The 25-nation OECD has predicted that Europe's powerhouse economy will

grow by 2.9 per cent this year and 2.7 next year.

"In contrast a reversal of the recent exchange rate appreciation could imply stronger activity, linked to better prospects for exports and enhanced investor confidence, but in this case inflation would tend to be higher," the report said.

Inflation would stay around two per cent but the OECD said that unemployment would not decline significantly in west Germany, however.

"Recent adverse competitiveness shifts are likely to maintain the impetus towards rationalisation in manufacturing," it added.

A further risk to the forecast is that people might save

more than they are at present and, therefore, spend less.

It said the main factors that had driven the recovery until now — housing and exports — might slow in the second half but business investment would take over.

However, a strong rise in business investment expected in other major economies in the next couple of years might help cushion the effects of the strong mark on exports.

Private consumption, until now subdued by big tax increases, would pick up in 1996.

Eastern Germany would remain the fastest growing region in Europe, it said, aided by double-digit growth in investment.

Study: Best place to fill your tank is Venezuela

ROCHESTER, Wisconsin (AP) — Motorists in Caracas, Venezuela, get the cheapest gasoline while Tokyo drivers have to pay the most, says a study reaffirming that fuel is generally cheaper in countries where oil is a major industry.

Gasoline prices in major cities range from 12 cents a gallon (3 cents litre) in Caracas, Venezuela, to \$5.67 a gallon (\$1.49 a litre) in Tokyo, according to the study released this week by Rochester-based Runzheimer International.

The consulting firm, which specialises in travel and living costs, studied gas prices in the second quarter of this year.

After Tokyo, the cities topping the consulting firm's list for expensive gasoline were Oslo, Norway, with \$4.86 per gallon (\$1.23 per litre); Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with \$4.85 (\$1.27); Paris with \$4.33 (\$1.14) and Hong Kong with \$4.31 (\$1.13).

Following Caracas for the cheapest gas were oil-nation cities of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with 61 cents per gallon (16 cents per litre); Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with 83 cents (22 cents); Bogota, Colombia, with 88 cents (23 cents) and Mexico City with \$1.19 (31 cents).

Jardaneh: Peace treaty helps implement economic reforms

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh said Tuesday that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed last October is expected to create more favourable political circumstances for the success of the economic restructuring programme which was launched in 1989.

"The peace treaty is bound to bring about a boom in such sectors as tourism, transport and transit and to open new markets for Jordan's national exports," the minister said at a meeting of secretaries general and directors of various ministries and government departments held at the Ministry of Interior.

The peace treaty, added the minister, has encouraged many foreign firms that were previously hesitant to do business here to embark on major investments in the Kingdom and the other countries in the region.

Under the restructuring programme the government has succeeded in reducing the public expenditure as compared to gross domestic pro-

duct (GDP) from 45.6 per cent in 1991 to around 35 per cent in 1994, the minister said.

He said the 35 per cent rate — which the government still considers relatively high — is caused by the increasing current expenses on social security services and servicing the country's foreign debts.

At the same time, the minister said, the government has succeeded in reducing the margin of deficit in the fiscal budget (compared to the GDP) from 17.4 per cent in 1991 to 4.6 per cent this year. But this margin is still high and the government is striving to reduce the deficit to a 2.7 per cent by 1998 when the restructuring programme would have been completed.

According to the minister, the restructuring programme is of a high priority in the government's national economic policies. Through the implementation of this programme the government aims to achieve a six per cent growth annually from now



Basel Jardaneh and until the end of 1998, Dr. Jardaneh said.

The programme, which was agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is also aiming at stabilising the Jordanian currency, building foreign currency reserves and reducing the deficit in the country's balance of payments.

Mandela urges southern African economic integration

KEMPTON PARK, South Africa (AP) — Southern African leaders strengthened regional cooperation Monday by signing agreements and welcoming a new partner, but the work of turning words into action lies ahead.

The Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius became the 12th member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Its prime minister Anerood Jugnauth said he shared the group's vision that poor, weak countries would find strength in unity.

"There is no faster way for us to develop except to pool our resources, our knowledge and our markets for the development of our economies," Tanzania's President

Ali Hassan Mwinyi said at the one-day SADC summit closed.

South African President Nelson Mandela, whose country joined SADC last year, urged his colleagues to follow up on their pledges.

"We owe it to all the people of the sub-continent to ensure that they see in us, not merely good leaders waxing lyrical about development, but as the front commanders in the blast furnaces of labour, productive investments and visible change," he said.

The community signed agreements setting up structures for sharing water and energy, key in a region prone to drought.

But proposals to lower hur-

dles to the free movement of people and money within the region were still being discussed. Such issues raise delicate questions about national sovereignty. And countries within SADC with weaker economies than giants like South Africa fear their industries would be swamped if they were to lower trade barriers, whatever the long-term benefits of increased financial cooperation.

The leaders meet next year in Lesotho.

SADC was celebrating its 15th anniversary at the summit held just outside Johannesburg. But in many ways, it just began when South Africa joined.

SADC, with roots in the front line states that once

railed opposition to apartheid in South Africa, could do little to promote development without the region's strongest economy.

South Africa's population of 40 million is nearly twice as large as that of Tanzania, the next most populous SADC member. The country's gross national product was estimated at more than \$91 bil-

lion in 1991, compared to just over \$6 billion for Zimbabwe, the next highest economy.

Host Mandela, Jugnauth of Mauritius and Mwinyi of Tanzania were joined at the summit by representatives of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- spumante
- Uses clippers
- Tentative guess
- Clinches
- Lace again
- Magnet end
- Simpleton
- Sam or Remus
- Golf bag item
- Is boss
- Court dividers
- Monster loch
- Stallone role
- Sail supports
- Baseball manager, Felipe
- Winter formation
- Greek letter
- Be completely in charge
- Josh
- On the agenda
- Double read
- Light and thin
- Nest sounds
- Pleased as Punch
- Speech unit
- Is in charge
- Landing site
- In the future
- Certain fuel
- Cap — (from head to foot)
- Sailor's vacation
- Musical unit
- Requirement
- Computer key
- job (deceptive flattery)

DOWN

- Lend a hand
- Barge
- Far, pref.
- Byzantium, now
- Word on a penny
- out
- Yearning
- Race distance
- Soak through
- Cactus features
- Wrongful acts
- At — (not knowing)

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

ACIDS	RAMP	EAR
TULIP	EMIL	CEDE
IRISH	BOLA	ORAL
PEACEFULLY	RIME	
SAUCER	ROSE	ERNEST
SAUCER	TRUE	
OSSA	TRIM	STIFF
DOERS	ORE	TIGER
APRIL	CANE	SOLE
BUCK	LITTLE	
JABBER	ASIN	
ABEE	ORCHARDIST	
BELA	WORE	OATER
OLIN	ENID	ALATE
TEE	DADS	DELAY

13 It's big in London

21 Vintage car

22 Poker less

25 Display framework

26 Asian mountain range

27 Give shape to

28 Thurbar's Walter

29 Yearn

30 Idlerod transport

32 Tribulations

33 Burst of thunder

34 Soliloquy start

35 At the apex

36 Takes advantage of

38 Stage whisper

39 Country dances

43 Hoofed it

44 Con's opponent

45 Feel blindly

46 Ms. Amaz

47 Use a loom

48 Command

50 Auctioneer's aim

51 Next

52 Use the microwave

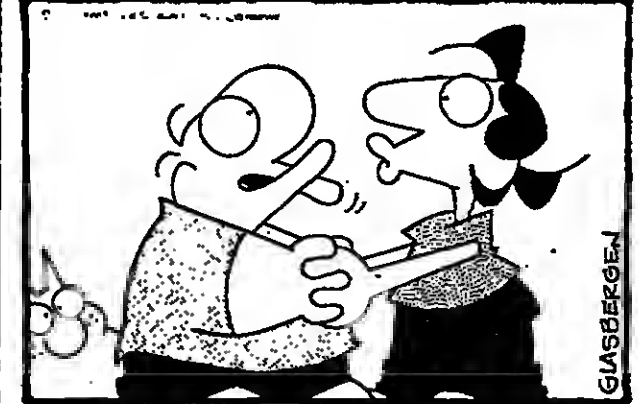
53 Not long now

54 Dorothy's dog

55 Rather

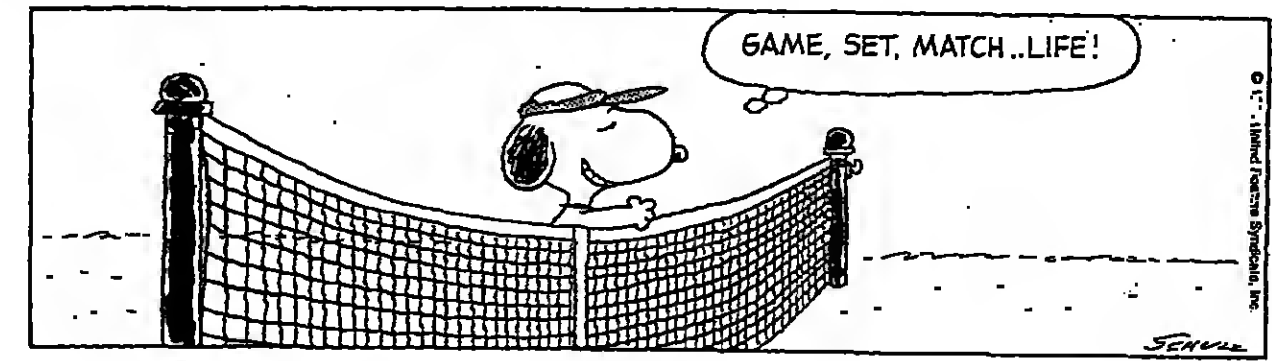
56 Morning moisture

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Sometimes my lips get bored and like to trade places."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GLUBY

YANDS

GHARNA

INZAIN

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: UPPER PIOUS ENGULF LOCATE

Answer: What the 3-sport athlete gave his school — THE OLD COLLEGE 'TRIP'

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are wisely focusing on financial and property matters and can add to personal assets. Relieve tensions by being ethical.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Others may oppose your personal aims but be diplomatic. Outsiders could give you trouble, but your mate can make you happy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan today how to replace difficult newcomers to gain more tranquility and avoid any schemes being perpetrated on you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy today at whatever is of a practical nature and forget emotional desires which could bring you trouble. Be charming.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Changes may take place today where your career is concerned, but this will be for the best. Look for more fascinating interests.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some long-time partner could take leave of you today, hot other associates soon come into your life for greater progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Charming an important person in the outside world is wise today, but avoid problematical affairs of a practical nature.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try not to have an altercation today with one who does not agree with ideas you have, and then fellow associates will be cooperative.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Rid yourself today of antiquated ideas and systems and get your existence on a more streamlined basis.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Steer clear of that extravagance today where entertainment is concerned and be happy within your family circle.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Doing something today which others will not like at home could bring trouble for you. Do some visiting of friends and neighbors.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much care in motion and in speech should be exercised today. Look about you tonight, and see how you can improve your home.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Salvation through mergers unlikely for Japan banks

TOKYO (R) — In Japan, home to the world's 10 biggest banks, the merger of Chase Manhattan Corp and Chemical Bank Corp has been watched with envy but also a sense of resignation.

There is little fear among Japanese banks that the new kid on the world banking block may threaten their business. After all, the new Chase will still be dwarfed by Japan's behemoths.

But the depressing fact for Japanese banks is that mergers would be unlikely to generate the profit or financial strength they badly need.

The U.S. banks' merger was generally well-received by analysts, who approved of its primary aim of cutting costs to raise profits. The two banks will shed around 12,000 of their total 75,000 jobs when they merge.

But Japanese banks know they could not do this, and that combining to create giants would not help them cast off the mountain of bad loans weighing on them.

"Japanese banks must be envying the move, as U.S. banks can cut workers and close offices after the merger for restructuring and streamlining," said Katsuhito Sasajima, a financial analyst at Nikko Research Centre.

"Japanese employment practices don't allow such drastic moves."

Mitsubishi Bank Ltd and Bank of Tokyo Ltd (BOT) announced in March they would merge to form the world's largest bank, but the banks' analysts say this will not result in job losses.

That headline-grabbing merger was not part of a general trend, despite being the third merger of major Japanese commercial banks this decade. Rather, it was the marriage of two uniquely well-placed partners.

Mitsubishi, whose main business consists of lending to members of the "keiretsu" (company-wide interlocking alliances), with that name, is strong in the domestic retail business but has little international presence.

BOT has always been strong internationally, especially in foreign exchange.

But the Chase-Chemical merger is different because it is part of a drive towards efficiency throughout the U.S. banking industry, where some analysts expect the sector to see its highest number of mergers in 1995 for 15 years.

"I think it (the U.S. merger) won't have a direct effect on the business of Japanese banks for now," Toshi Hashimoto, president of Fuji Bank Ltd told the Nikkei Kinyu Shimbun financial daily.

Japanese banks are the world's largest measured by assets, numbering the 10 biggest. When Mitsubishi and

BOT complete their merger, as they hope to before next April, the new bank will have assets of over 72 trillion yen (\$742 billion), outstripping current leader Sumitomo Bank at \$588 billion and dwarfing the new Chase-Chemical Bank's \$297 billion.

But they are suffering from low profits because the limp economy has slowed demand for loans.

Also weighing on them are bad loans from the bursting of the late 1980s "bubble" economy of ballooning land and share prices. These are estimated officially at around 50 trillion yen (\$500 billion) but in reality are likely to be much higher.

Credit rating agency Moody's last week delivered a withering condemnation of the sector's overall health, giving all but one Japanese bank a "bank financial strength rating" of C or less on a scale of A to E.

"If Japanese banks don't quickly deal with bad loans and start to rationalise, they will not be able to maintain international competitiveness, but at Japanese banks, it is difficult to make large-scale job cuts even if they do merge," said Fuji Bank's Hashimoto.

"Even if they try to become more efficient through mergers, the reality is that it will take far more time than for American banks," he said.

Yemen to refurbish old Aden oil refinery

DUBAI (R) — Work to rehabilitate Yemen's 40-year-old oil refinery at the southern port city of Aden is scheduled to start early next year, a director at state-owned Aden Refining Company (ARC) said.

ARC, which is the country's main supplier of petroleum products, has now received bids from international firms for the Aden project and will take three months to evaluate them before awarding the contract.

"At the beginning of 1996 work will start and it will take two years to complete," the ARC director said.

The refinery has a design capacity to refine 170,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil but the age of its units has restricted operations to less than 100,000 bpd.

"The idea of the project is to secure the safety and reliability of the refinery," the director said.

Work will focus on rehabilitating Aden's existing units — mainly one of its two crude distillation units and its catalytic reforming unit — and the construction of a new power plant for the site.

Financing has yet to be arranged though contractors have been asked to examine ways of fully or partially financing the project which is estimated to cost up to \$150 million.

Arab group invests less in bonds, more in deposits

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An official Arab group created 20 years ago to encourage regional investment has slashed assets in bonds but boosted them in bank deposits and financial portfolios, it said Tuesday.

The Arab Corporation for Guaranteeing Investment (ACGI) said its investment in bonds mostly in the West stood at around \$17.6 million at the end of 1994 compared with \$30.6 million at the end of 1993.

Investments in deposits rose to \$24.4 million from around \$18 million and those in portfolios surged to nearly \$62.5 million from around \$46.8 million, the Kuwaiti-based group said in a report.

It did not say why it slashed investment in equities but experts said it apparently increased bank deposits to benefit from higher interest rates.

ACGI's balance sheet issued early this year showed the 22-member group slightly boosted net profit to around \$6.9 million in 1994 from \$6.8 million in 1993. Total assets grew to about \$246 million at the end of 1994 from \$238 million at the end of 1993.

ACGI was established in 1975 with a paid up capital of around \$81 million to encourage inter-Arab investment, which has remained a fraction of the overseas Arab assets of between \$600-\$800 billion.

But in recent years, the company started to concentrate on financing Arab exports to encourage home-made production.

Expanding telephone network to cost \$223m

THE NATIONAL telecommunications programme aims at increasing the telephone coverage from 7.7 per cent to eleven per cent by the end of 1998. This means doubling the current network capacity by adding 250,000 telephone lines in addition to installing 21 main telephone exchanges and another 80 local exchanges with all the needed cables and distribution networks. The programme entails providing the telephone services at 553 locations spread throughout the Kingdom. The cost of this programme, after chopping off some of the projects for urgent implementation, is about \$223 million, of which JD 63 million in local currency financing will be from the treasury and \$130 million in foreign financing will come from foreign loans and grants. The approved projects are as follows: Amman 93,200 lines; Madaba 11,032; Jerash 5,294; Irbid 52,252; Ajloun 7,520; Zarqa 40,272 and Balqa 9,824 lines. The additional proposed projects are: Amman Governorate 51,701 lines; Zarqa Governorate 17,632; Balqa Governorate 2,068; Madaba Governorate 1,592; Irbid Governorate 2,308; Jerash Governorate 588 and Karak and Tafleh Governorates 9,272 lines each (Al Dustour).

A TOURIST group of 230 people from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia are now visiting Jordan, touring Petra, Jerash, Amman and the Dead Sea before leaving for Israel. The tour was organised by Amani Tours in coordination with an Israeli agent and three major tourism companies in Thailand (Al Rai).

ACCORDING to sources at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan's gas production in 1994 was 10 million cubic feet, valued at JD 8.4 million. The total gas production from Al Rishbi field since it was tapped has amounted to 38 billion cubic feet valued at JD 29 million (Al Dustour).

A CUBIC metre of drinking water costs the state JD 0.810 but subscribers pay only JD 0.220 per cubic metre, resulting in a government subsidy up to 80 per cent. Similarly, a cubic metre of irrigation water costs the state JD 0.090 but farmers pay only JD 0.015 per cubic metre resulting in another 80 per cent subsidy (Al Dustour).

THERE IS no plan to raise the prices of gas cylinders despite the international rise in the price of steel, Abdul Wabab Al Zubair, general manager of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, has announced. Mr. Zubair stressed that there will be no crisis in the distribution of cylinders during winter as there will be sufficient quantities to cover the needs of the Kingdom. He pointed out that the company has imported, and actually received 50,000 cylinders from Saudi Arabia and will be importing 200,000 more in the next two months. The general manager said that the gas plant at the refinery produces 500 gas cylinders each day, enough to satisfy local demand under normal circumstances. During 1994, the gas plant produced 112,100 cylinders of 12.5-kilogramme capacity while sales amounted to 132,575 cylinders of 12.5-kilogramme capacity and 446 cylinders of 50-kilogramme capacity. In addition, 34,685 cylinders were repaired and put into use again. There was a total of 1,859,139 gas cylinders of all sizes in circulation at the end of 1994, the year when the company was forced to import 50,000 cylinders to overcome the shortage in that period (Al Rai + Al Dustour).

Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York	Tokyo
U.S. Dollar	1.0000	1.0000
British Pound	1.5500	1.5466
Deutsche Mark	1.4800	1.4800
Swiss Franc	1.4800	1.4800
French Franc	5.6625	5.6734
Japanese Yen	1.0000	1.0000
European Currency Unit	1.0000	1.0000

Financial Markets

Gold	USD/oz	JD/oz
Gold	343.40	7.50
Silver	5.59	0.120

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Rate	Rate
U.S. Dollar	0.7119	0.7139
British Pound	1.0955	1.0950
Deutsche Mark	0.4857	0.4861
Swiss Franc	0.5868	0.5897
French Franc	0.8100	0.8100
Japanese Yen	0.0073	0.0073
Dutch Guilder	0.0037	0.0037
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Currency	Rate	Rate
British Dollar	1.0000	1.0000
Japanese Yen	0.0073	0.0073
Swiss Franc	0.5868	0.5897
French Franc	0.8100	0.8100
Deutsche Mark	0.4857	0.4861
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Spanish Peseta	0.0000	0.0000
Portuguese Escudo	0.0000	0.0000
Greek Drachma	0.0000	0.0000
Cypriot Pound	0.0000	0.0000

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3416/26	Canadian dollar	1.4666/76
	1.6428/38	Deutsche marks	1.2082/92
	30.17/21	Dutch guilders	1.0571/21
	1634.2/5.2	Swiss francs	1.634/2.5
	97.28/38	Belgian francs	7.3120/20
	6.4230/80	French francs	5.6900/50
		Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

One sterling \$1.5480/90
One ounce of gold \$383.15/383.55

Dubai, Total discuss Iran gas imports

NICOSIA (R) — Dubai and French oil firm Total S.A. have begun official negotiations on the sale of Iranian gas to Dubai, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) newsletter reported Monday.

Total and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) agreed in July that Total will develop Iran's Sirri E and A offshore oil and gas fields, Tehran's largest oilfield with a foreign firm since its 1979 revolution.

The start of the gas supply talks is seen by industry watchers as another step forward for the 3600 million Sirri project which has come under pressure from the U.S. government which is seeking to deny Iran access to foreign finance.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, in the run up to sweeping U.S. sanctions against Iran, quashed proposed deal on Sirri between NIOC and American Dupont Co. unit Conoco last March.

"The U.S. made diplomatic representations to the ruler of Dubai in an effort to persuade the Dubai government not to purchase Iranian gas made available as a result of the Sirri oilfield development venture," MEES said.

"However the initiation of formal negotiations between the Dubai government and Total with regard to the purchase of this gas would suggest that the U.S. representations have fallen on deaf ears in Dubai," MEES said.

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Cries and whispers on opening day at U.S. Open

Seles cruises through; Matsuoaka collapses in pain

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A day of quiet efficiency from the likes of Becker and Edberg was pierced by the agonized screams of a fallen tennis warrior on Monday as the U.S. Open Championships got underway at the National Tennis Centre.

Former champions, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg were overpowering in straight sets, while two-time U.S. Open champion Monica Seles extended her comeback with another lopsided victory, beating Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-3, 6-1.

But the day's best drama, a pitched battle on the grandstand court between two seeded players, ended with Japan's Shizue Matsuoaka collapsing to the hard court with severe muscle cramps in both thighs, too painful to call for help after a tense, three-hour 26-minute battle.

The 27-year-old Matsuoaka's 6-7 7-6 7-6 5-6 defeat by default to Peter Korda was far from the most important match-up of opening day.

But the aborted struggle proved the most compelling on a clear, breezy afternoon at Flushing Meadows.

Seles drove groundstrokes with the pace of old into the corners and displayed a deft touch on drop shots as she overpowered Dragomir.

"I think the whole match I was very nervous," Seles said. "My heart was so fast, I had so much energy and she just slowed down everything."

Seles, who sometimes had more trouble with her hair blowing in the breeze than she did with Dragomir, said she was thinking about the match all day, not making plans on how to play.

"I wasn't conscious out there," she said, adding that she got a boost from a young girl at court-side who kept urging her to "go for it, Monica."

After nervously double-faulting to start the match, Seles won the next four points and settled down into a rhythm that would take her to her 15th consecutive victory at the U.S. Open — seven apiece in 1991 and '92 when she won, and one more now after a two-year interval.

Seles didn't have an easy time in this match, despite the score. Dragomir, a Romanian ranked No. 44, played well and made her

run. Seles isn't yet in the best shape, even after winning the Canadian Open just over a week ago, and there were moments when she bent over gasping for air following long rallies.

She asserted herself in the third game with a 105 mph (168 kmph) service winner at game-point, then got the only break of the set she needed in the next game for a 3-1 lead.

Seles served out her last two games of the set at love.

In the second set, Seles yielded only 14 points in the seven games.

After ending her 56-minute match, the second-seeded Seles's face lit up as she waved to the appreciative crowd, then ran across the court to embrace her father.

She then returned to sign autographs as several extra-large security guards kept watch from very close proximity.

Seles later suggested that the opposition does not have to start quaking in their collective high-priced shoes just yet.

"Right now the main thing is just do your best. Early next year it is going to be more back to that real competitiveness, trying to get back to (where I was) before all this happened."

"It is good to see her back," declared ninth-seeded 1990 Open champion Gabriela Sabatini, who earlier crushed Italian Adriana Serra-Zanetti 6-1, 6-1 in just 46 minutes.

Third seed and defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario needed three more minutes to win by the same lopsided score over Romanian Catalina Cristea. Feeling a bit underworked, she then headed straight for one of the practice courts to hit some more balls.

They were joined in the second round by sixth-seeded Australian Open champion Maryn Pierce, a 6-1, 6-1 victor over South African Mariana De Swardt.

Even 14-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland, last year's junior runner-up and the youngest player in this year's field, went through quietly, sending away Belgian Nancy Feber 6-2, 6-3.

A pair of former men's champions also flexed their grand slam muscles on opening day.

Fourth seed Boris Becker,

this year's Wimbledon runner-up and the 1989 open champion, overwhelmed Spaniard Alex Lopez Moron 6-1 6-0 6-3.

"I didn't really break much of a sweat," admitted Becker.

"I played an hour and 20 minutes, which is very, very short for a best-of-five hard-court match."

Stefan Edberg, unseeded here for the first time since 1984, opened the tournament on stadium court with a 6-0 6-3 7-6 victory over Czech Martin Damm.

Edberg, the 1991 and 1992 champion whose ranking has slipped to 19th in the world, moved fast. John McEnroe into third place on the Open-era Grand Slam victory list with his 168th career win in a major tournament.

The men lost their first seeded player early on Monday when 10th-seeded South African Wayne Ferreira was ambushed by Jerome Golmard of France, who became only the 10th qualifier to pick off a men's seed in U.S. Open history.

Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev, seeded 16th, advanced with a four-set victory and the Open's marathon man, Aaron Krickstein, rode one of his patented five-set wins into the second round.

The 45th-ranked Krickstein outlasted Lionel Roux of France 3-6 6-3, 6-1 6-3 6-4 to raise his U.S. Open record in five-set matches to 9-2 and his career record in five sets to 28-7.

The biggest noise, literally and figuratively, was made by Matsuoaka.

He and Korda were locked in a Titanic struggle before a packed grandstand court crowd that had gone three tiebreaks in the first three sets and was headed for a fourth when the Japanese collapsed as if he were shot, screaming in pain.

Matsuoaka lay in a heap screaming for several minutes — unable to be helped, according to the rules, and physically unable to call for help.

Finally, first aid arrived, and after massage treatment, Matsuoaka was able to leave under his own power. Korda, the 1992 French Open finalist, advanced to the second round.

"Many times when I had to bend low, I started feeling it and it was scary, but this is the U.S. Open. I had to keep going," said Matsuoaka, who took eventually winner Pete Sampras to four sets in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon.

"At 5-6 (in the fourth set), all I could do was scream," said Matsuoaka. "There was so much pain."

Players are not allowed help when they cramp, as the injury is seen as a by-product of conditioning.

Matsuoaka wanted assistance but could not speak through his pain. Court-side officials would not help him at first for fear of causing his disqualification.

"I knew I could not play anymore. But all I could do was scream," said the 64th-ranked Matsuoaka.

Goran Ivanisevic's run of bad luck at the Open continued on Monday.

The sixth-seeded Croat, who upset in the second round two years ago and the first last year, was three games from a straight-sets win in the closing night match on stadium court when disaster struck.

At 3-3 in the third set, Ivanisevic was chasing a ball across the baseline when he badly twisted his left ankle and fell to the ground writhing in pain.

After a few minutes of

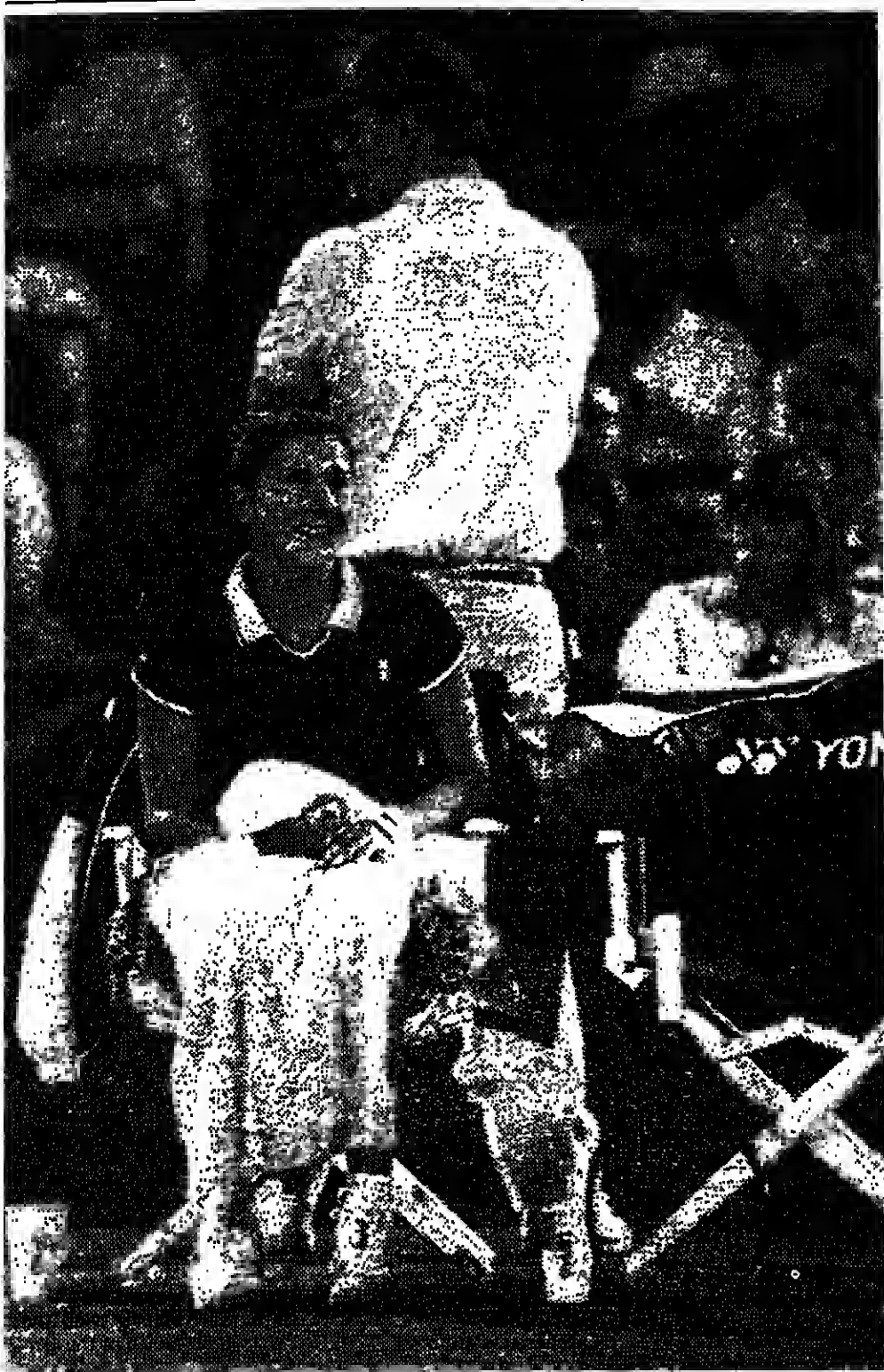
apparent agony, the trainer helped him off the court and taped the ankle.

The Croatian ace master gamely tried to play, on but after dropping the set 6-3 and

falling behind 3-1 in the fourth, he retired, leaving New Zealander Brett Steven a surprise 4-6 2-6 6-3 6-1 winner.

The big guns are set to start

firing on Tuesday with top seed and defending champion Agassi and second-seeded Wimbledon winner Sampras set for afternoon matches on the stadium court.



Monica Seles smiles after winning her first match at the U.S. Open. A security guard behind her watches the crowd closely. Seles is

playing her second tournament after a two year absence following her stabbing at a tournament in Hamburg in 1993 (AFP photo)

Sanchez welcomes Seles's challenge to her U.S. Open title

NEW YORK (R) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario welcomed the return of Monica Seles to women's tennis, as well as the prospect of having to beat the two-time champion in order to keep her U.S. Open crown.

"If you want to be the best player, you have to beat everybody and now she is back," Sanchez said of Seles, who made a triumphant return to tournament tennis after a more than two-year absence by winning the Canadian Open two weeks ago.

"I will be ready," declared the Spaniard. Sanchez was definitely ready to begin defence of her title on Monday, routing Romanian Catalina Cristea 6-1 6-1 in 49 minutes.

Afterwards, the second-ranking Sanchez took a few more minutes to repudiate the idea that she was unhappy about being dumped down to third seed after Seles was installed as co-number one and seeded second here.

"I only said that it is great that she is

coming back," Sanchez said of Seles, who was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg on April 30, 1993.

"It makes more excitement and it is better. It is better for the game. She was number one when everything happened to her."

Sanchez, who has come up just short in the year's previous three majors, is hoping to claim her fourth career Grand Slam title by repeating as Open champion.

Still she is not discouraged after finishing runner-up to Mary Pierce in the Australian Open and to Steffi Graf in the French Open and Wimbledon.

"I think it has to be positive," Sanchez said of her 1993 record in the majors. "Only two players get to the final and if you win, much better."

"But I have to be happy and satisfied with the year that I have so far and now I just have to keep going and continue playing my best."

Salako recalled to England squad but no Ince or Ferdinand

LONDON (AFP) — Coventry winger John Salako was the surprise name in an England squad announced on Tuesday which was more remarkable for who was omitted rather than who was included.

There was no place for Inter Milan midfielder Paul Ince, in-form Newcastle striker Les Ferdinand, utility player Warren Barton, Leeds United's left back Tony Dorigo or the enigmatic Matthew Le Tissier, in coach Terry Venables' squad to play Colombia at Wembley on Sept. 6.

Also out are Umbro Cup disappointments Colin Cooper and David Unsworth plus injury-hit Darren Anderton, John Scales and under study goalkeeper Ian Walker.

But Venables has included Paul Gascoigne and Stan Collymore, although injuries could rule out both and the England coach has named a 23-strong squad to give himself plenty of cover.

David Seaman, Tony Adams and Rub Jones reclaim their natural places while Newcastle pair Steve Howey and Robert Lee, who broke into the senior side in Venables' first full season, are also back.

So too is the controversial Dennis Wise. The Chelsea winger, like Ince, was dropped by Venables last season when he became embroiled in criminal charges.

But the difference between Wise and Ince's new six million pound recruit is that injury ruled the Londoner out of last summer's Umbro Cup, while the former Manchester United star upset the England coach by pulling out to go on holiday with his family after his acquittal.

As well as Wise, Venables has offered Salako the chance to resurrect his England career four years after a serious knee injury threatened to put him out of the game altogether.

The Nigerian-born 26-year-old, signed by Ron Atkinson from Crystal Palace this summer, was capped five times by Graham Taylor.

Many felt that OPR's Trevor Sinclair had made a better start to the season and deserved to make the step up from the under-21s to cover for the absent Anderton.

But Venables already has a strong contingent of youngsters in his squad, with Jamie Redknapp on course for his senior debut, retained after his late Umbro Cup call along

with Liverpool team-mate Steve McManaman.

While Cooper and Unsworth depart, Manchester United's bright young full-back Gary Neville, who played against Japan and Brazil, is retained.

But the omission of six million pound striker Ferdinand, who has started the season better than any Englishman with three goals, was the biggest surprise.

Newcastle's new hero instead finds himself out in the cold, with Venables gambling on Collymore's fitness and retaining former Tottenham favourite Teddy Sheringham.

In midfield Venables has ignored the claims of another early season success, Aston Villa's Mark Draper.

The niggling groin injury which has restricted Gascoigne's British comeback with Rangers is unlikely to bring him into contention since he has had only two full games since his return from Italy.

Graham Le Saux and Stuart Pearce retain the left back positions. Leeds Tony Dorigo, so often Pearce's deputy, is again left frustrated despite his excellent start to the season.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Players fined for eating hot dogs

KIRKLAND, Washington (AP) — Dennis Erickson has fined Seattle Seahawks starters Rick Mirer, Cortez Kennedy and Eugene Robinson \$1,000 each for eating hot dogs on the sidelines during the team's exhibition game in San Francisco. "We just felt that the fines were necessary," the first-year head coach said Monday. "It wasn't done intentionally by them and they're great kids. But they made a mistake. They know that better than anybody." Robinson, the team's regular free safety and defensive captain the past three years, said he apologised to team president David Behring, the coaching staff and his teammates. "I had half a hot dog," Robinson said. "It was a pretty expensive hot dog." Kennedy, a four-time pro bowl defensive tackle, and Mirer, beginning his third season as the Seahawks' starting quarterback, did not want to talk about the third-quarter incident. "I'm not talking about hot dogs, period," Kennedy said.

Kennedy overjoyed by millionaire's gift

LONDON (AFP) — Former England star Ray Kennedy, forced to sell his medals and caps after being stock down by Parkinson's Disease, said he was overjoyed on Tuesday after a millionaire benefactor left the mementoes to his son. The 44-year-old former Arsenal and Liverpool midfielder, auctioned the medals and international caps in 1993 but now the purchaser of several of Kennedy's 17 England caps has left them in his will to the footballer's 14-year-old son, Dale. "It is really fantastic, a very nice gesture. It was heart-breaking to have to lose all the mementoes of my career but with my health being as it is, I had to ensure my financial stability," said Kennedy. "I didn't even know who had bought the caps but he must have been a really nice guy," he added. The caps were left in the will of Lawrence Devy, of north London, who died on April 19. The sale of his footballing honours, including medals commemorating Arsenal's 1971 League and FA Cup double and Liverpool's 1977 European Cup win, raised 88,407 pounds (about 150,000 dollars) at Christie's in Glasgow.

Coach retained despite conviction

CANBERRA (AP) — Australia's head swimming coach, Gennadi Touretski, will keep his job despite being convicted of assaulting four people on a trans-Pacific flight, sports officials said Tuesday. Touretski earlier this month was fined U.S. \$10,000 (13,540 Australian dollars) and sentenced in Honolulu to 30 days in jail after he pleaded guilty to the assault charges. In court, Touretski admitted to poking one passenger in the eye, jumping on another, shoving a flight attendant and biting the arm of the flight's first officer. Touretski suffered a broken nose in the fracas. After returning to Australia, the 46-year-old former Russian Olympic coach was suspended down with full pay by the Australian Sports Commission.

Romario's brother planned father's abduction

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A woman jailed for the kidnapping of Romario's father last year said the crime was a "farce" planned by the player's brother and bodyguard, Marluca Gomes said Romario's brother, Ronaldo, and a bodyguard identified as Wilson thought the Brazilian Soccer Confederation would pay the ransom to appease its star player on the eve of the 1994 World Cup. "Romario wasn't going to pay anything. It was just to shake down the confederation," Gomes said Monday in an interview on the Globo TV network, Brazil's largest. Edevaldo de Souza was kidnapped May 2, 1994, outside a bar he owned on Rio's poor north side. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of 7 million. Romario, then playing for Spain's Barcelona Club, appealed to the kidnappers to release his father and even asked Rio drug lords to use their influence. Six days later, state police raided a house in Nova Iguaçu, a working class city north of Rio, and found Souza. Gomes, who was there taking care of him, was arrested.

China bids to clean up sporting image

BEIJING (AFP) — China has amended a bill on sport and physical culture it is due to adopt Wednesday in a bid to stamp out bribery and doping, the semi-official China News Service said Tuesday. China's National People's Congress standing committee, which is currently in plenary session, has added an article to a bill already examined in June to rid sport of corruption and fraud. Those who break the law will "answer to the law courts," the agency said, without saying what penalties would be imposed. The changes make sporting organisations and government departments liable to sanctions if they are implicated in drug scandals, and laboratories will be authorised to carry out "serious controls." The action comes almost a year after the Asian Games in Hiroshima when 11 Chinese athletes tested positive for drugs.

Marseille sack coach

MARSEILLE (R) — Former European champions Marseille, struggling in the French second division, said on Tuesday they were sacking their coach Henry Stambouli because of poor results. "Stambouli will coach Marseille for the last time against Toulouse (on Thursday)," club president Jean-Michel Roussier said. Marseille, rocked for the last two seasons by a match rigging scandal and financial problems, lost 2-0 at Caen on Saturday and had there players sent off including marksman Tony Casciano of Ireland. They now lie ninth in the second division, nine points adrift of Caen, and will meet Toulouse without five key players who are suspended.

Laudrup picked to play Belgium

COPENHAGEN (R) — Michael Laudrup and his injured brother Brian were named on Monday in Denmark's 16-man squad for a do-or-die European championship qualifier against Belgium in Brussels on September 6. There were few changes from the squad who beat Armenia 2-0 in Yerevan on August 16 and elevated Denmark to second place in Group Two, five points behind Spain but three ahead of third-placed Belgium. Two teams qualify from the group. Coach Richard Moeller Nielsen replaced Mogens Krogh with Lars Hoehs as second string goalkeeper and dropped defender Toren Piechnic and midfielder John Jensen without replacing them, trimming the squad to 16 players from 18.

Brazilian soccer fan dies

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A 16-year-old soccer fan died of head injuries Monday, a week after he was brutally beaten in a riot between rival fan clubs. Marcio Da Silva was declared brain dead by Dr. Luis Mazeria at the hospital Das Clinicas in Sao Paulo, hours later, life support systems were turned off. Da Silva was hospitalised after the battle Aug. 20 between fans of the Sao Paulo and Palmeiras Clubs. He slipped into a coma and never regained consciousness. A devoted Sao Paulo fan, Da Silva was one of thousands who attended the game at Pacaembu Stadium free, although the stadium was still under repairs. Palmeiras won 1-0 in sudden-death overtime, and fans swarmed the field to celebrate. Some Sao Paulo fans took offense and broke into a depository of construction materials, which included paving stones and wooden beams.



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic throws his racket after missing a point (AFP photo)



14-year-old Swiss star Martina Hingis returns a shot in her first match at the U.S. Open Monday (AFP photo)



Bayern Munich striker Jürgen Klinsmann is in full flight as he lunges for the ball (AFP photo)

Klinsmann may be fit for important German qualifier

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich striker Jürgen Klinsmann could recover from an ankle ligament injury sooner than expected and has been named in Germany's squad for next week's key European Championship qualifier against Georgia.

Klinsmann was originally expected to be out of action for four weeks after partially tearing ligaments in his right ankle on the opening day of the Bundesliga season on August 12.

But the 31-year-old German captain trained for the first time on Monday after a plaster was removed from his lower leg last Thursday and may play for his club in a local derby with 1860 Munich in the first division on Saturday.

Germany coach Berti Vogts was, however, unable to pick Borussia Dortmund striker Heiko Herrlich in the squad he announced on Tuesday for the September 6 group seven qualifier in Nürnberg because he has a badly bruised foot.

Dortmund's libero Matthias Sammer and defender Stefan Reuter are also not included in the 22-man party because of suspension.

The match is important since the second-placed Germans are just one point ahead of Georgia although the former world champions have a game in hand.

Bulgaria have a five-point lead in the group and are almost certain of qualifying for next year's finals in England.

Goalkeepers — Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich),

Stefan Klos (Borussia Dortmund), Andreas Koepke (Eintracht Frankfurt).
Defenders — Markus Babbel, Thomas Helmer (both Bayern Munich), Jürgen Kohler (Borussia Dortmund), Martin Spärring (Freiburg), Christian Ziege (Bayern Munich).
Midfielders — Mario Basler, Dieter Eitz (both Werder Bremen), Steffen Freund (Borussia Dortmund), Thomas Häßler (Karlsruhe), Jörg Heinrich (Freiburg), Andy Moeller (Borussia Dortmund), Mehmet Scholl, Thomas Strunz (both Bayern Munich), Jens Todt (Freiburg).
Forwards — Fredi Bobic (VfB Stuttgart), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Jürgen Klinsmann (Bayern Munich), Stefan Kuntz (Besiktas), Bruno Labbadia (Cologne).

Werdel-Witmeyer succeeds Navratilova as WTA president

NEW YORK (R) — American Marianne Werdel-Witmeyer was elected president of the WTA Tour players' association, succeeding outgoing president Martina Navratilova, the association announced on Monday.

Werdel-Witmeyer, who previously served as vice president, was elected late Sunday night by the players' association board of directors.

"I know I am following in some pretty big footsteps, but I am ready for the challenge," said the 24th-ranked Werdel-Witmeyer.

Navratilova last week said she had decided to step down at the end of her first year as President, having helped to accomplish her goal of bringing Monica Seles back to the sport.

Seles played her first Grand Slam match since her April 1993 stabbing in the first round of the U.S. Open on Monday night.

Players' association officials paid tribute to Navratilova at their annual meeting on Monday.

"It has truly been a privilege to work with Martina this year...her leadership will

be missed," said the association's executive director Karen Feldman.

"She knows there is always a place at the players' association should she ever tire of the sedentary life," joked Feldman.

Other officers elected for 1995-96 were Americans Katrina Adams as vice president and Nicole Pietrangeli as treasurer and Argentine McCreeds Paz as secretary.

Werdel-Witmeyer, who previously served as vice president, was elected late Sunday night by the players' association board of directors.

World University Games Americans overtake Japan in medals race

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Josh Davis came from behind in the last leg of the final relay Tuesday as the American swimmers put their nation ahead of Japan in the World University Games gold medal races.

Japan, which had led in medals for the first five days of the games, picked up one gold each in swimming and tennis. The Americans had two in swimming and one in tennis, putting them ahead 18 to 17 overall.

With two diving events and a fencing gold yet to be decided Tuesday night, the Americans also led 51 to 48 in total medals.

China won two golds, in swimming and diving, boosting its total to seven, one behind South Korea and even with Russia.

Track and field competition began, and Hungary and Romania won the first two events.

Germany won a diving gold, and Brazil added one in swimming as Fernando Scherer reinforced his position as the games' fastest sprint swimmer.

Davis came out of the games with four gold medals — one in the men's 400-metre freestyle and three in relays, including the final 4 x 100-metre medley, in which the Americans broke a games record.

Japan led after three legs, but Davis anchored the U.S. quartet to a winning time of 3:42.99, setting the old mark of 3:42.99 set by another American quartet in 1985. Japan was second in 3:43.36.

The day's four other races all were decided by less than .2 seconds.

Japan's Hisato Yasui won the day's longest race, the men's 1,500-metre freestyle, by 0.06 second over Brazil's Luiz Eduardo Lima, who almost made up a 1.68-second deficit over the last 100 metres.

France's Yann Debabrerie, the men's 200-metre freestyle winner, placed third.

Solomon won one of the shortest, the men's 50 freestyle, by .18 second over

American Bill Plencik after winning the 100 earlier in the games.

In the women's 50, China's Sun Jialin won by .02 second over American Nicole De Man.

American Kristin Heydenek was just .08 ahead in winning the women's 100-metre backstroke over Japan's Yoko Kobayashi, the 200-metre gold medalist.

"I'm really tired, but excited. It was a close race and those are the best...I thought I was further ahead than I was," said Heydenek.

"I've been practicing the finish. You just have to put your head down and hope you hit the wall first."

With Tuesday's victories, the Americans came out with 16 gold medals in the games' 34 swimming events. Japan finished with seven.

In track, Romania's Gabriela Szabo won the women's 5,000 metres comfortably in 15 minutes, 29.86 seconds, with Italy's Silvia Sommaglio second in 15:34.32 and Japan's Yumi Sato third in 15:35.28.

Hungary's Balazs Kiss won the hammer throw with a heave of 79.74 metres (261 feet, 7 inches). Ukraine's Alexander Krykun was second with 77.06 (252-10).

In tennis, Americans David Caldwell and Paul Goldstein won the men's doubles title 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 over Britain's Nick Adams and Richard Holden.

Japan's Rika Hiraki and Shinoe Asagoe, the top seeds, beat Taiwan's Wang Shi-Ting and Lin Hsiung-Lan 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 for the women's doubles title.

Hiraki plays Japanese compatriot Kaoru Shibata for the women's singles gold on Wednesday, and two South Koreans — Lee Hui-Taik and Yoon Yong-Il — meet for the men's title.

Germany won the gold for the best team total in women's diving, with the United States second and China third.

The Chinese won the men's gold, ahead of the United States and Canada.

The United States won the

1993 medals race with 75 in all, including 30 gold, followed by Canada with 40 and

Japan with 30. China stood second in golds, however, with 17.

University Games briefs

★ When the team from baseball's home country, the United States, suffered a 15-0 loss, it was in front of the biggest crowd yet for any competition of these World University Games — 24,780.

But the crowd in Fukuoka Dome didn't mind. The winner of Monday's game was the home team, Japan. The Americans, represented by the Florida state team, managed just one hit against two pitchers from Japan's national squad.

"They could throw in any professional programme in the U.S. I'd love to have them at Florida State," U.S. coach Mike Martin said of Shinji Kurano and Masao Morinaka.

One Japanese pitcher already is starring in the major leagues — Hideo Nomo of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who has a 10-5 record.

"We were a little overmatched," said Martin. "We're disappointed that we couldn't give the fans a better game, but that is a credit to the Japanese baseball team."

The Americans still advanced to the games' final four, along with Japan, Cuba and South Korea.

★ A stress fracture in her back didn't stop American gymnast Heidi Hornbeck from winning a silver and a bronze medal at the World University Games.

She was second on the uneven bars, behind China's Ding Yuan, and third on the beam, behind Russia's Oksana Sivovol and China's Yuan Xexia, in Monday night's individual apparatus competition.

"I'm pleased with my performance," said the 18-year-old from Arizona. "My back has really been bothering me and it's hard to totally block that out of your mind."

★ Australia was trounced 4-0 by Japan in the quarterfinals of the World University Games soccer tournament, but team manager Steve Hoszowski was far from despondent.

"Our team was very inexperienced and, to be honest, we exceeded our expectations," said Hoszowski. "Only two of our squad had any international experience and we were the first Australian team to make it past the first round at the University Games."

★ Fukuoka, the host city of the World University Games, sometimes is in the path of the typhoons that menace Japan at this time of year. Just in case, the organisers issued guidelines Monday for ticket refunds in case of typhoons or other "unexpected circumstances."

Basically, if an event is more than half finished when weather forces a halt, there is no refund. Otherwise, the spectator can receive a full refund or admission to the next event.

Outdoor sports include track and field, soccer, tennis and some baseball games. Other baseball games are being played in the roofed Fukuoka Dome, where 14,500 spectators turned out Sunday to see Japan beat China 10-1.

Another 10,000 turned out for gymnastics.

★ Jerome Dreyfus was probably surprised to wake up Monday morning and read he had won the silver medal in the men's open judo competition at the World University Games.

The Frenchman didn't even compete. Dreyfus was replaced in the event by his teammate Karim Boumedjane — but the organisers neglected to take note of the change.

Boumedjane was announced as Dreyfus throughout the competition, at the medals ceremony and even in the official results.

It wasn't until several hours after the conclusion of competition that officials realised their bungle and issued a correction.

"It's a shame we only got to know about our mistake when we were told by officials after the ceremony," said a games spokesman.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSON ©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.	<p>The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1 ♠ 6 ♠ 10 ♠ 7 ♠</p> <p>What action do you take? Q.5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: A7 ♠ 666 ♠ KQJ10 ♠ AAK766 ♠ The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH 6 ♠ 4 ♠ 7 ♠ 7 ♠</p> <p>What action do you take? Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold: AAQ66 ♠ AQ67 ♠ 72 ♠ AAK66 ♠ The bidding has proceeded: EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH 1 ♠ 10 ♠ 1 ♠ 10 ♠</p> <p>What action do you take? Q.7 - Neither vulnerable, as South</p>
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Higuaita to unlock Gremio defence

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — Goalkeeper Rene Higuaita is expected to provide one of Atletico Nacional's most useful attacking options as the Colombians attempt to overturn a two-goal deficit against Brazil's Gremio in the second leg of the Libertadores Cup final on Wednesday.

Higuaita has become a regular free kick taker for the Colombian champions and his ability to swerve the ball around the defensive wall makes him a constant menace.

He scored the only goal when Atletico beat Argentina's River Plate 1-0 at home in the first leg of their semi-final, a tie the Colombians went on to win 8-7 on penalties after losing the second leg 1-0 in Buenos Aires.

Higuaita, who has always been famous for his unorthodox style, had already scored from a free kick earlier this year in the Colombian championship.

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Athletes using University Games to prepare for Atlanta

FUKUOKA (AP) — For some athletes, competing at the World University Games is preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta in more ways than one.

Aside from the pressure of international competition, the heat and humidity conditions are similar in Fukuoka and Atlanta.

"Some athletes who train in the southeastern part of (the United States) have said it feels like home to them," said Frank Zang, press officer with the U.S. delegation.

For Australians, coming to Fukuoka means coming to summer from the southern hemisphere winter.

"Australians are always competing outside their natural climate zone," said Tina Evans, the Australian delegation press officer. "Any experience, especially around this time of year, is valuable."

With some 4,000 athletes from more than 150 nations and territories competing, these are the biggest University Games ever.

"Many athletes wanted to come to Japan and they want to compete under similar conditions to Atlanta's as they are preparing for the Olympics," said Shozo Sasahara, chief of the Japanese delegation.

"Atlanta is very hot in the summer like Fukuoka, so we are consulting doctors. We are especially studying the effect of the heat on the tennis players," he added.

High temperatures during the games have been in the low 30s Celsius, with evening temperatures in the soccer stadiums only a few degrees lower.

Becoming used to competing in the heat is not the No. 1 factor for entering the University Games, Evans said, but Australia has had some promising athletes fall apart in overseas meets because of problems with the climate.

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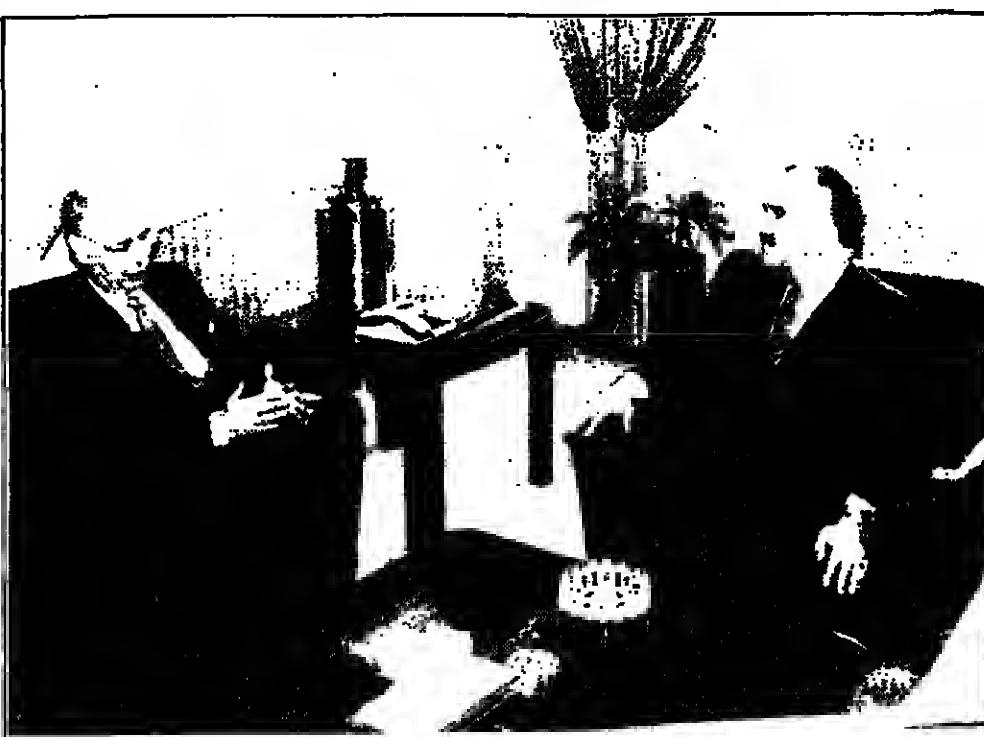
King receives Afghan message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received a message from Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, dealing with bilateral cooperation and the need to enhance cooperation in the fields of transport and tourism.

The message was delivered to King Hussein by Afghan Minister of Tourism and Aviation Abdul Rahman, who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

King Hussein expressed Jordan's interest in bolstering cooperation with Afghanistan in various fields and issued instructions to the government to respond to the Afghan government's request to bolster cooperation in the field of tourism and transport.

The King expressed hope that Afghanistan will enjoy peace and stability and wished the Afghans further progress and prosperity.



SUMMIT PREPARATIONS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday confers with World Economic Forum President Klaus Schwab on preparations for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Schwab said: "It will be a summit about which people will talk for some time to come" (see page one) (Petra photo)

Six U.S. ambassadors to promote Mideast business

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A little over a month before the Middle East/North Africa economic summit conference convenes in Amman, six U.S. ambassadors to Arab countries and Israel will return to the United States to undertake a one-week speaking tour. They intend to use the speaking tour to publicize business opportunities for American companies in the Middle East in connection with the unfolding peace process in the region.

The participating ambassadors are Edward S. Walker, Jr. (Egypt), Martin Indyk (Israel), Wesley W. Egan, Jr. (Jordan), Ryan C. Crocker (Kuwait), Raymond E. Mabus, Jr. (Saudi Arabia), and David Litt (United Arab Emirates). The latter's participation in the tour has yet to be confirmed since Ambassador-designate Litt has not been confirmed by the Senate.

The three-city tour begins September 11 in New York. The two other stops are Chicago and Houston on Sept. 13 and 15 respectively.

Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown, who will be going to Jordan for the Amman Economic Summit, has been invited to speak at the three day-long seminars but his participation has yet to be confirmed.

Other scheduled speakers are Lauri J. Fitz-Pegado, assistant secretary of commerce and director general of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, and Robert H. Pelletreau, assistant secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Joining the ambassadors will be their senior commercial officers as well as senior executives from companies that have established successful business operations and joint ventures in the Middle East. The companies cover such industries as energy, defense, infrastructure, consumer products, and financial and other services.

Representatives from about 60 countries are expected to attend the three-day Amman Economic Summit on October 29, the second such international gathering aimed at promoting the flip side of the ongoing Middle East peace process — regional economic development.

The Amman conference, co-sponsored by the United States and Russia and scheduled to be opened by King Hussein, may see the participation of several regional leaders including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Public and private partnership will be the focus of the conference, unlike its predecessor, the Casablanca summit, which ushered in Israeli and Arab government and business cooperation.

"This is an exciting time of change in the (Middle East) region, for as prospects for peace in the Middle East increase, so do the many possibilities for U.S. companies," prospective conference participants from the executive ranks of the American business community are being told by the Department

of Commerce in letters of invitation. Participants are paying a fee, ranging from \$275 to \$400, to participate in the conference.

The ambassadors' trip is sponsored by the Department of Commerce and the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU).

The ambassadors speaking at the three city stops will provide local business leaders up-to-date assessments of the political and economic climates in the six countries in which they are assigned and in the Palestinian self-rule areas, and will also seek to identify the best business opportunities for launching and maintaining business ventures in these markets.

There will also be a discussion of U.S. government, private sector and multilateral programs which provide financing, counseling, marketing and technical assistance necessary for successful business operations in the Middle East.

In connection with the ambassadors' briefings, five workshops will be presented at each of the three city stops. These will cover:

- Energy; petroleum, petrochemicals, hydrocarbons
- Defence industry; military sales and offsets
- Major Infrastructure Projects; airports, refineries, power generation, housing, water stations and telecommunications
- U.S. government programmes, banking and project finance
- Peace process; update on Gaza and the West Bank.

Saddam's old friend reportedly among missing Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A longstanding Kuwaiti friend of President Saddam Hussein is among the 605 missing people Kuwait wanted Iraq to account for during talks on their border on Tuesday.

It was because of their friendship and Baath Party ties that President Saddam's envoys in occupied Kuwait immediately asked Faisal Abdul Hamid Al Sane to form a puppet government, his nephew Khalidoun Abdul Latif Al Sane told AFP.

But Mr. Sane refused and was arrested about a month after the Aug. 2, 1990 invasion along with 24 other people, including Khalidoun's brother and two cousins who are also still missing.

The official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) confirmed Mr. Sane was on the emirate's list of 605 missing people.

Until the invasion Mr. Sane had worked closely with President Saddam for decades.

"My uncle hid Saddam in the 1950s (from Egyptian intelligence) when they were in Cairo," Khalidoun said in a first contact with Western reporters. "The Egyptians then asked my uncle to leave the country. He finished university in Baghdad."

When he was in Iraq Mr. Sane used to visit President Saddam's mother as well as his brother Barzan to check up on them, Khalidoun said. President Saddam "was clever that he took friends from wealthy families."

Mr. Sane then helped the Iraqi Baath Party to come to power in the 1968 coup, he added.

Mr. Sane, who served briefly as a member in the Kuwaiti parliament, resigned from the Baath Party after parliament was dissolved in 1986, but continued to see President Saddam for lunch and other private occasions right up until 1990.

He had no idea President Saddam would ever invade Kuwait, Mr. Sane's niece Mariam Abdul Latif Al Sane said. "He was completely shocked."

Apart from knowing he would not form a government, the Iraqis wanted to arrest Mr. Sane for trying to organise civil resistance with other deputies, Khalidoun said.

Arah League delegates sent to Baghdad after the 1991 Gulf war said they were told privately that Mr. Sane was alive.

Kuwaiti anger at Jordan eases slightly — survey

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis have become slightly less hostile to Jordan but many still object to improving ties, a survey conducted during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of the Gulf state, an opinion poll published by a newspaper on Tuesday showed.

"It is possible to say that the people's general mood has become less strict," Al Watan newspaper said in a commentary on a survey it conducted of an undisclosed

Olmert wants foreign officials to stop visiting Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Ehud Olmert, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, demanded Tuesday that foreign officials stay away from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Jerusalem, saying it was an "insult" to send official delegations in defiance of Israel's wishes.

Mr. Olmert said it was "totally intolerable" for foreign dignitaries to insist on visiting the PLO's Orient House, the focus of rising tensions in the Holy City.

"It is against all diplomatic precedents that officials from overseas will pay visits to places against the will of the government," Mr. Olmert told a Foreign Press Association meeting.

Mr. Olmert singled out Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin who cut short a visit and then postponed a return trip after Israel objected to her paying a call on the Orient House.

"I hope that the lesson learned by the deputy prime minister of Sweden will be sufficient for any future visitors coming to the state of Israel," said Mr. Olmert.

The mayor spoke a day after Israel's government delivered closure orders to three other Palestinian offices as part of a campaign to assert its "sovereignty" in East Jerusalem which is claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital.

Mr. Olmert, a member of

the right-wing opposition Likud Party, said he had Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's backing for taking legal steps against the Orient House and other PLO offices.

The Orient House, currently zoned for use as a hotel, has refused city hall's demands that it apply for a zoning change, Mr. Olmert said.

"It will take some time, but I am confident that at the end of the day the Orient House will be closed," Mr. Olmert said.

However, dovish cabinet minister Yossi Sarid suggested Tuesday that if the closure orders were intended only as a warning.

"The Orient House will remain open. It is not going to be closed. But the people in the Orient House will have to read the (antennomy) agreement again," Mr. Sarid, a senior negotiator with the Palestinians, told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

Israel claims the PLO offices are being run by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in violation of the Israel-PLO agreement, which allows the authority to operate only in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Olmert said the closure of the Orient House would not damage the peace process, despite Palestinian protests at orders for the closure of three other institutions on Monday.

The mayor said he was

"very happy" at Israel's decision to shut down the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, centre of statistics and health council in Jerusalem.

But he urged the government to go further.

"All the activities of the Orient House in the context of the representation of the Palestinian Authority to make Jerusalem a future capital of the Palestinian entity must be stopped."

"I'm confident that at the end of the day, the Orient House will be closed. Even if it is the peace process will not be stopped. Basically the negotiations will continue so it should not be an excuse."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat condemned the three closure orders on Monday as "totally contravening" the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords.

Israeli officials said the government stopped short of closing the Orient House — officially the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel — because it feared it would push the PLO too far and threaten the peace process.

Mr. Olmert also said he regretted the decision by the European Union to stay away from Israeli celebrations starting next month to mark the 3,000th anniversary of the capture of Jerusalem by the Jews.

"Jerusalem began to play a major role in world history since it was captured by King David," he said.

France asks Sweden to extradite blast suspect

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — France formally asked Sweden Tuesday to extradite an Algerian activist whom French investigators consider a top suspect in a terrorist attack which killed seven people in the Paris subway last month.

A request for the extradition of Abdul Karim Deneche, 40, arrived in Stockholm Tuesday through diplomatic channels and handed over in the afternoon to the Swedish authorities, reliable sources said.

Justice Minister Jacques Toubon said the demand was founded "on significant, reliable factors."

Swedish authorities detained Deneche but said last week they could not charge him with murder because he had an alibi. France persisted, issuing an international arrest warrant enabling it to submit an extradition request.

However, Swedish authorities acknowledged Monday that they were still checking an alibi given by Deneche.

Deneche claims he was in Stockholm on July 25, the day of the bombing at the Saint Michel underground rail station on the Left Bank, even though he was identified from photographs by a retired French policeman travelling in the carriage where the bomb went off.

Swedish chief public prosecutor Jan Danielsson said on Swedish television that the suspicions surrounding Deneche "have still not been fully cleared up."

He said police were trying to verify "a signature" supposedly made by Deneche.

French press reports citing sources close to investigators in Paris, said Tuesday that Sweden had accepted Deneche's alibi without a full enough investigation.

The reports said police had not interviewed neighbours of Deneche, one of whom had told journalists that he was absent from his home for about 48 hours at the end of July.

The report in France Soir also said a signature allegedly written by Deneche at a post-office where he went to withdraw money, was a written from left to right in Roman letters and not as he usually signed from right to left in the Arabic fashion.

Last week, Mr. Danielsson

who is in charge of the case in Sweden, said there was not enough evidence to charge Deneche with "murder and complicity to murder" in connection with the Paris bombing.

But Deneche, who was arrested in Stockholm on Aug. 21, is still being detained under Swedish special legislation on foreigners regarded as security risks.

Mr. Danielsson said he was being questioned about "suspected terrorist activities" which could yet result in him being expelled.

Justice Minister Laila Freivalds gave the green light on Friday to moves to expel Deneche who is held by Saepo, the Swedish secret police. The Swedish government is expected to reach a decision on this within a month however an extradition request by France would take precedence provided it conformed to Swedish law, officials said.

Deneche who is allegedly close to the notorious GIA, the most radical Islamic Armed Group fighting the regime in Algeria, went on a hunger strike on Friday saying he was innocent of the Paris attack.

Mr. Danielsson meanwhile denied Monday that Deneche was suspected of involvement in the murder on July 10 in Paris of an imam whose name was not a GIA hit-list.

Evidence now suggests that the murder of imam Abdul Baki Sahraoui, the July 25 bomb and a bomb which went off near the Champs Elysees on August 17 injuring 17 people are all believed to have been carried out by the same group.

Meanwhile, a second suspect in the July 15 attack was named as Yabia Rihane, also known as "Krounfil" — an Algerian word meaning "clove" and referring to the shape of a mole on his face.

He was said to have been identified by a witness from a large male near his left eye.

Algerian secret services told French police that Rihane was believed to have organised the hijacking of a French airliner in Algiers last December. Islamic activists vowed to avenge the death of the hijackers who were killed when French special forces stormed the plane in Marseille.

Georgian leader escapes death in carbomb

TBILISI (AP) — A powerful carbomb exploded Tuesday in the motorcade of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze outside the parliament. Mr. Shevardnadze was cut by flying glass in what aides called an assassination attempt.

They said his injuries were not serious, and he was taken to the First Republican Clinical Hospital for treatment.

The blast in downtown Tbilisi destroyed one of the escort cars in the motorcade and three cars nearby, said Ramaz Sakvarelidze, Mr. Shevardnadze's press secretary. It also shattered all the windows on one side of the building, including those of Mr. Shevardnadze's suite of offices.

Georgia, a former Soviet republic, has been wracked by crime, coups and civil war since it became independent in 1991. Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister, has led the Caucasus mountain country since early 1992.

The blast came at 6:40 p.m. local time (1340 GMT) as Mr. Shevardnadze was sitting in his car. He was about to leave for a ceremonial signing of the troubled republic's new constitution.

"It's clear Shevardnadze's enemies tried to assassinate the head of our state to stop the signing ceremony," Mr. Sakvarelidze said.

There was no word on how serious the other casualties were, but the escort vehicle was reduced to smoking, twisted wreckage. Mr. Sakvarelidze said police thought the vehicle had been empty.

The Interfax news agency said several people were wounded.

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Britain screens footage of 'alien' in U.S.

LONDON (R) — British television viewers saw their first sighting Monday of a controversial humanoid corpse, billed as an alien whose spacecraft crashed into the U.S. desert in 1947. The so-called Roswell incident is among the most debated of UFO — unidentified flying object — mysteries and it was the first time its "real" alien dead, had appeared on screen in Britain. A British television channel showed the creature from the chest up, looking directly at the camera. The creature was wearing a dark, hooded garment. The image was grainy and appeared to be a still from a film.

— has been taken from UFO circles. British television maker Ray Santilli said he bought the film from a former military cameraman who is alleged to have filmed the autopsy of the alien after the spacecraft crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. "We didn't have it — 100 percent sure," he said. UFO enthusiasts pounced on the grainy black-and-white footage, claiming it was proof of an alien on Earth, accusing the U.S. authorities of mounting a massive cover-up. Doubters applauded a sophisticated set of special effects but saw no woman from outer space on the operating table. "What a load of rubbish" was the verdict of the Daily Telegraph.

"People want to believe in flying saucers but... if you open your mind too much, your brain may fall out." The footage, shown by Channel 4, depicts a creature with 12 fingers and toes and an oversized, hairless head. Surgeons in huge radiation suits cut through its chest, which appears to ooze blood, and saw at the scalp to expose "a gelatinous brain."

5-year-old commits suicide after seeing war film

BEIJING (AFP) — A five-year-old Chinese boy committed suicide after watching one of many "educational" films being shown on television to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The Beijing Daily said Tuesday the boy, who lived in a Beijing suburb, jumped from the floor of his building after having seen a Japanese soldier cut out the heart of a child, the newspaper said in an article entitled "educational films or horror films?" Commemorating the war against the Japanese invaders and fascism is an opportunity to strengthen patriotic education, the newspaper said, but care had to be taken over the methods used.

Thai-U.S. team launches AIDS vaccine trial

BANGKOK (R) — A joint Thai-U.S. military medical team Tuesday launched a trial of a drug which might prove to be a preventive vaccine for the killer disease AIDS, officials from the team said. Two Thai volunteers were injected Tuesday with the trial drug, made by the U.S. firm Chiron Biotech, at Bangkok's main military hospital. A total of 24 Thai volunteers will receive the drug, called "SP2-GP120/MF 59", in the first phase of the trial which will last six months, Lieutenant General Kamroh Saisawan of the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) told a news conference. More than 200 volunteers will participate in the second phase of the trial and at least 1,000 in the third and final phase. Gen. Kamroh said. The full trial, to see if the drug can stimulate the body to produce antibodies to the HIV virus which can cause AIDS, is expected to take five to six years. AFRIMS officials said. The drug has already undergone a trial in the United States, they said. "More than 2,000 American volunteers have done a trial with this vaccine and it proved to be safe with no side effects," U.S. Army Colonel Rodney Michael told Reuters. AFRIMS is a joint research body grouping medical specialists from the U.S. army, the Thai army and Thailand's Chiang Mai University. In June last year, Thai health authorities began the first ever tests here on an experimental drug which might lead to a preventive vaccine for AIDS.